



Saturday Special / A2-1

Zellweger shines in tepid 'Bridget Jones' sequel

Business / B1

Electronics boost 12.3% export surge in October

Super / H1

Managing editor by day, jazz singer by night



Business / B16

Prince Andrew urges RP to regard UK main partner in Europe

Tanong ng Bayan / A16

Salot ng illegal logging, bakit hindi masugpo?

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Solon says it's senators' turn to cut their pork



By Cynthia D. Balana
BUT IT'S their turn, chanted several pro-administration congressmen. House Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said
SOLON/ A8

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GMA: Together we'll rise as one

Cory Aquino extols sense of community and volunteerism

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

NEARLY 1,000 people dead or missing, over a million others in misery, and more than P1 billion worth of crops and livestock lost—just the kind of devastation that could unite a country divided on almost everything else.

"It is time for the country to come together, for individuals to do heroic deeds together, for everyone to help in whatever way, for all to reach out to those who need help," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday in the wake of four tropical cyclones that ravaged a wide area of Luzon.

"This tragedy will unite this country," she told a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council as relief operations in about 20 affected provinces and dozens of cities and towns swung into a high gear.

"Together as one nation, we will rise from the devastation," Ms Arroyo said.

In Washington, where she was to receive the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award, former President Corason Aquino said she was offering prayers to the families and communities that had lost lives.

She said the time had come again for Filipinos "to come to the aid of our unfortunate brothers and sisters."

"I have seen our people come together during disasters in the spirit of Bayanihan—I recall the [1990] earthquake, the Mount Pinatubo eruption, the Ormoc flash floods during my watch—and I have marvelled at our sense of community and volunteerism," Ms Aquino said in a statement.

Ms Arroyo said P1 million would be released to each "adversely affected" municipality for relief and rehabilitation.

The successive onslaughts by Storm "Unding," Tropical Depressions "Violeta" and "Winnie" and Typhoon "Yoyong"—over just a period of two weeks—came at a

GMA/AS

TREKKING in wet clothes through rough terrain, the mud and debris in Real, Quezon, residents with their children evacuate to safer ground where they hope to find a roof over their head, dry clothes, food and caring. AP

'Yoyong' breezes past; body bags run short

By Fe Zamora, Christine A. Gaylican and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

RUNNING short of body bags and fearing outbreaks of diseases, rescue workers buried dozens of victims in mass graves as Typhoon "Yoyong" exited the country yesterday as quickly as it entered.

"Many of the dead have been buried without being identified," said Ladislao Yuchongco, director of the health department's national health emergency management. "There is a problem of bacterial infections carried by flies, insects and rodents."

In some of the worst hit areas in Quezon

Province, rescue workers were still struggling to bury the dead as the government issued an appeal for more body bags.

Rescue workers described the stench from rotting corpses as "unbearable."

Yuchongco said that although 200 body bags had been sent to Real, they were not enough.

YOYONG/ A8

3 DENR execs axed over illegal logging

By Volt Contreras, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has announced yet another crackdown on the largely faceless culprits behind one of the Philippines' worst environ-

mental disasters.

For starters, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said he had ordered the relief of provincial environment and natural resources officers (Penro) Rafael Otic of Nueva Ecija, Benjamin Mina of Aurora and Emrich Borja of Quezon.

Their relief was intended to clear the way for an inquiry into the scale of illegal logging in their areas of responsibility.

But as early as three months ago, Borja had warned that logging in the Sierra Madre could result in the decimation of all trees on

3 DENR EXECS/ A20



SCENES from the evacuation center in Rodriguez, Montalban: (Top photo) May Lazaro feeds her year-old son Luigi with donated noodles. (Above) There's small comfort in hanging on to each other to make it through the tears. RAFFY LERMAVERIK ARAZAS

STORIES FROM THE DEPTHS The missing, survivors' separation, reunion

By Romy Ponte, Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Luigi A. del Puerto in Manila

THERE was no sign of weather disturbance that Monday morning. The wind was calm and the sun was shining. The boat ride which took Alicia Coronacion Bantucan, 50, and her businessman husband Romeo Bantucan, 54, from Po-

lillo port to Real town was smooth and uneventful.

Alicia and Romeo, both of Poblacion Burdeos in Polillo Islands, Quezon, were on their way to Barangay Maragondon in Real town to visit their daughter Mary Anne, 32, a teacher.

Alicia suffered from a heart ailment while Romeo had a liver operation a year ago and his intestines hang outside his body. The couple reached their daughter's home in Real town.

THE MISSING/ A20

Volunteers, 'bayanihan' spirit prevail over disaster

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Tired, sleepless and still dressed in her muddied orange uniform, Efrelyn Escultura begged her colleagues at the Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog to order *chami* for her the moment she set foot inside their cramped office.

But when the bowl of pip-

ing-hot noodles from her favorite *panciteria* was set in front of her, Efrelyn, 25, hesitated and then turned away, tears welling in her eyes.

"This is enough to feed a dozen children in Real. They are hungry and thirsty and there is no food, no potable water," she said.

She settled for a glass of cold water to quench her thirst.

VOLUNTEERS/ A8

Erap more of a flight risk now—Ombudsman

By Armand N. Nocum

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday warned that deposed President Joseph Estrada is more of a flight risk now than during the time that the Sandiganbayan first allowed him to undergo knee replacement surgery in the US about a year ago.

"There is a higher possibility of flight because there is now a Sandiganbayan ruling that there is a prima facie case against him. There was a ruling last March that we have presented enough evidence and there's a prima facie case," Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Marcelo said that the Sandiganbayan special division which is hearing the plunder and perjury charges against Estrada ruled in March that there is "prima facie" case that the former president allegedly amassed P4.3 billion in ill-gotten wealth.

The anti-graft court's ruling came after Estrada's court-appointed lawyers filed a motion for

them not to present evidence in Estrada's favor any longer, claiming the plunder case against the ousted president is weak.

Because of the ruling, Estrada's lawyers recently started presenting evidence in his defense.

But Marcelo said that the testimonies of the 13 defense witnesses so far presented appear to be weak. The witnesses were presented to rebut the charges of Ilcos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that Estrada dipped his hands into the multi-million tobacco excise tax and jueteng collections.

"Right now, our opinion is that the witnesses he presented have no value. So there is a higher

flight risk because our evidence is strong," he said.

Marcelo said they will cite this argument in a motion for reconsideration they will file before the Sandiganbayan on Monday seeking the reversal of the court's Dec. 1 ruling.

Voting 4-1, the Sandiganbayan allowed Estrada to undergo knee surgery at the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital from Nov. 22 to Dec. 12, saying they were only reiterating the court's view laid down last Dec. 23 when Estrada was allowed to undergo operation in the US.

Estrada did not push through with the US trip after failing to secure a visa and after finding that the \$1 million cost of operation was too high.

But Special Division chair and Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval, the lone dissenter, warned that Estrada, once out of the country, may opt to no longer return to face charges here.

"It would give rise, sooner or

later to some complex problem or enigma involving sovereign states now that the accused-movant is no longer within the jurisdiction of this court," Sandoval said.

Marcelo shares this view, noting that while the country has an extradition treaty with Hong Kong, it does not have one with China.

Sought for comment, Estrada simply laughed off Sandoval and Marcelo's fears.

"It is a figment of their imagination. There's no way that I will not return to the country," he said. "On the contrary, I fear that the government will not let me back after my operation."

He also denied that the witnesses presented by his lawyers are weak. "Our witnesses are strong because they are telling the truth," he said.

As to his trip, he said he was likely to leave on the third week of December—possibly Dec. 19—because his US doctor—Christopher Mow—is only available that week.



AMERICAN IDOL
Filipino-American singer Camile Velasco, at left, and her mother, Rennie West, pose for photographers upon arrival Friday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Honolulu, Hawaii. Velasco, 19, gained worldwide recognition for making it to the top 12 of the American Idol talent search. She is in Manila for a concert with Martin Nievera at the PICC on Dec. 10.

Anti-sex trafficking group slams cops for abuse

By Blanche S. Rivera

AN ANTI-SEX trafficking group yesterday castigated the Philippine National Police for the "despicable treatment" suffered by prostituted women in the hands of policemen who allegedly use the women for sex before arresting them for vagrancy or for engaging in lascivious acts.

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific (CATW-AP) yesterday said it would file charges against three members of the police force for engaging in sex with a minor before arresting her and taking her picture while she was naked.

CATW-AP deputy director Jean Enriquez said the police are using Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code which imposes a fine or imprisonment for prostituted women, defined only as women, to arbitrarily round up women who work in clubs.

Cases documented by the CATW-AP included policemen from the Central Police District in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Enriquez would not name the three accused policemen until the charges are filed for fear that they would get back at the women.

The CATW-AP said the cases

proved that victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation are being violated further by police enforcers of the law.

It said police are ignorant of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, or RA 9208, that protects victims of trafficking and penalizes their users and exploiters.

It also said the distorted interpretation of the law was being used by law enforcers as an excuse to take advantage of the women and children in the sex industry.

Enriquez said the PNP was either ignorant of or was deliberately ignoring the anti-trafficking

law, which was passed last year and which protects prostituted women who are considered as trafficked women from arrest.

RA 9208 mandates that prostitutes be brought to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"The law has not been as effective as we had hoped. We expected the police to be more prudent and the women to not be penalized. But the police are either unfamiliar with the law or really ignoring it, which is worse," CATW-AP director Aurora de Dios said in a press conference yesterday.

Int'l donations pour in for victims of typhoons

THE PHILIPPINES yesterday continued to receive financial assistance and donations from the international community for victims of the recent killer typhoons.

The Australian government donated A\$500,000, or approximately P21.7 million, in emergency assistance for regions ravaged by typhoons "Winnie" and "Yoyong."

The Australian Embassy in Manila said that of the amount, P13 million will be coursed through the United Nations Development Program while the remaining P8.7 million will be turned over to the Philippine National Red Cross.

Germany is providing 50,000 Euros, or about P3.7 million, in humanitarian assistance to the victims of Typhoon "Winnie" in Region IV. The German Embassy in Manila

said the amount will be used to buy clothes, blankets, dry and canned goods, potable water, medicine and materials for shelters and to fuel helicopters that will transport the materials to the affected areas.

On Thursday, Spain donated P4.2 million worth of relief goods; the United States pledged \$100,000 to the PNCR to address the needs of the victims; Japan committed to provide 28 million yen worth of emergency aid, and the UN set up a crisis management task force to assist the families displaced by the typhoons.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Children's Fund also pledged emergency funds, while the UNDP requested a further grant of \$100,000.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3009, Series of 2004.

GMA: Together we'll rise

From page A1

time when Filipinos across the country were stringing up their homes and offices with Christmas lights.

The season of sharing and giving may have come but there will be no Christmas parties for some.

Senate President Franklin Drilon canceled Christmas parties for senators and Senate employees so that the budget allocated for merrymaking, about half a million pesos, could be used for flood and landslide victims.

"This is our best way of responding to President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for unity," Drilon said in a phone interview.

The Christmas party for senators and their spouses had been scheduled for Dec. 6 and for employees for Dec. 17.

Drilon urged other government offices and even private firms to follow suit.

"The best way to celebrate Christmas is through sharing and giving to our less fortunate brothers," he said.

If foregoing parties would be impossible, Drilon urged government offices

to instead have "austere and simple" celebrations so that savings generated could go to the typhoon victims.

"It feels not proper to hold festivities while people are suffering," he said.

The Catholic Church is offering more than just prayers.

In a circular, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales urged the clergy to solicit donations of food, blankets, mattresses and dry clothing to be sent to Caritas Manila in Pandacan.

Rosales urged parishioners to share "whatever they have" with their stricken countrymen and directed the clergy to lead in seeking the intercession of the Virgin Mary to spare the country from further harm.

Caritas executive director Fr. Anton Pascual said the church's charity arm had distributed 3,000 packages of relief goods to Infanta, Quezon, and nearby provinces.

Caritas asked those who wished to help to call its office at 564-1831.

"I am grateful to all those who have poured their hearts and energies into



PRESIDENT ARROYO with DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman at Villamor Air Base on Wednesday meets typhoon-injured victims like Alvin Postales airlifted by Air Force choppers from Infanta, Quezon.

EDWIN BACASMAS

this effort—our government workers, volunteers, the media, the uniformed services and the unnamed heroes from all levels of the national community," Ms Arroyo said at the NDCC meeting.

This is "a time to show ourselves and ... the world the solidarity, resiliency and the self-reliance and communities that can clasp hands to meet misfortune," she said.

She said the government's resources and manpower were spread thinly but she was proud that volunteers and the private sector had filled the gap.

"We need one great heave to deliver the relief supplies, find the missing, rescue the isolated, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless," Ms Arroyo said.

With a report from Blanche S. Rivera

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US bank sees RP inflation rate surging to 8% in November

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S inflation rate is expected to surge to a five-year high of 8 percent in November this year due to higher electricity and fuel prices, will making it inevitable

for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to raise its key interest rates to avert a further spiral in domestic prices.

"With consumer electricity billings in November likely to reflect Napocor's tariff rate hike of 98 centavos per kWh on average,

a spike in headline and core inflation to eight percent is more than likely," US banking giant Citigroup said in its latest review of the Philippine economy.

The last time inflation hit 8 percent was in April 1999.

Citigroup said the higher electricity rates alone should add .8 percentage point to inflation, which jumped to 7.7 percent in October. Electricity has a 2.8 percent weight in the consumer price index. The Napocor rate hike would raise power costs by 30 percent.

"The electricity rate adjustment constitutes a 'permanent' one-off increase, nothing to do with oil price increases. Other handwriting on the wall is the pass-through of higher electricity costs by manufacturers, distributors and service providers to the consumer market. This will constitute the second-order impact of the electricity rate hike," Citigroup said.

The inflationary impact of higher electricity rates, however, is over and above the impact of surging fuel costs. Citigroup reckoned that inflation was much higher than published "as the second-order effects of high oil prices are in bloom."

It said the recent hike in US Federal Reserve rates and the potential credit rating downgrade have tipped the scale in favor of higher interest rates.

Citigroup also cited a report by the International Monetary Fund, which noted that "there is some evidence that price pressures may be spreading."

With the imminent return of inflation closer to two-digit levels, Citigroup said it has become increasingly difficult for the BSP to maintain its freeze on interest rates and that

the central bank was actually setting the stage for a potential change in monetary policy.

"Delays only heighten expectations of rate adjustments. This policy event is coming one way or another. The BSP is setting the stage for a potential rate adjustment. The key uncertainty is whether BSP's rate adjustments would be at a 'measured pace,'" Citigroup said.

Since the government could ill-afford to have higher interest rates which would raise the cost of borrowing and widen the fiscal deficit, Citigroup said it has become more urgent for the Arroyo administration to impose more taxes to boost revenues quickly.

"We believe emphasis should be given more to addressing the vulnerabilities brought up, particularly on the need to shore up investor confidence by more reform action than just pure talk," Citigroup said.

It said the government should speed up the implementation of the tax reform package "rather than go through the familiar motions of balancing the political implications of implementing these reform measures and fiscal imperatives."

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RESIDENTS of Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija try to clean up after Typhoon Yoyong brought heavy rainfall and strong winds in the area.

REM ZAMORA

'Yoyong' breezes past

From page A1

"Our biggest concern now is with those in the evacuation centers from influenza and pneumonia."

"One doctor from an international relief agency said that in 'disasters like this you need to bury the dead within 36 hours.'"

"The contamination of drinking water and the spread of diseases are always a problem in situations like this. The problem is with the living and not the dead," said the doctor, who did not want to be named.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday confirmed the mass burials in hard-hit Real town in Quezon province as the number of dead and missing from the four successive cyclones approached the 1,000-mark.

Soldiers reported finding about 100 dead in Dumingan in Aurora Province, Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino told ABS-CBN television.

"We found out today that there is a district in the village of Dumingan, where more or less 100 people are dead," he said. "Our soldiers now are helping the populace to recover the survivors and bury the dead."

Weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said Yoyong just "breezed" through Luzon making landfall in Aurora Province at 10 p.m. on Thursday night and getting off the coast of northern Luzon at 2 a.m. yesterday, or before dawn.

Damage to agricultural crops, including rice and corn, has reached P1.3 billion and the government said it planned to buy between 300,000 and 320,000 tons of rice next month because of damage to rice crops.

"If the farms are not immediately rehabilitated, the impact of these typhoons will be felt next year," Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said.

He said the National Food Authority (NFA) planned to immediately import rice as a buffer in case of a delay in the summer rice harvest—usually between April and May—next year.

NFA administrator Gregorio Tan said his agency planned to hold a tender to buy 300,000 to 320,000 tons of rice next month for arrival in the country within the first quarter.

In Geneva, Switzerland, the Red Cross federation launched an appeal for \$1.7 million to help hundreds of thousands of people affected by the deadly storms.

1 million affected

The money would provide emergency relief and also help fight disease amid fears of epidemics in the battered areas, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in a statement.

The Philippine National Red Cross put at more than 1 million the number of people affected by the cyclones—referring to families who suffered deaths, whose homes were flooded, or whose means of livelihood were disrupted.

The strongest of the four cyclones, typhoon Yoyong, with its strongest winds of 185 kph near the center and gustiness of 220 kph, largely spared Luzon of destruction because of its abnormally fast clip of 33 kph.

Sierra Madre buffer

Cruz told the INQUIRER that the Sierra Madre range could have also played a part in Yoyong's northward change of course and in weakening its strength to just 120 kph after it made landfall.

"Some people say Yoyong wasn't much of the typhoon we warned the public about. But let them ask the people of Catanduanes and

the Camarines provinces how much of the storm they felt," Cruz said in an interview.

Cruz said Yoyong veered a little to the north of its forecast path that would have had its eye cross the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan.

Despite the typhoon's decreased strength as it hit land, Cruz said Yoyong could still have brought havoc to Luzon if it was not moving at its abnormal pace.

"Imagine how much damage it would have caused if it stayed longer," Cruz said.

Cruz said storms usually took two days upon entering the Philippine area of responsibility before hitting land.

"In two days (after entering the PAR), Yoyong has already left the country," Cruz said.

By yesterday morning, it was already out in the South China Sea.

Diseases biggest threat

Disease appeared to pose the biggest threat to those who survived the storms, health officials.

Authorities were worried that some of the worst affected areas could see outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as gastroenteritis, cholera and hepatitis.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit recommended Friday that all bodies be buried within 24 hours.

Around Real, many of the dead were being buried in makeshift graves and marked with wooden crosses until proper burials could be arranged. It is expected many of the bodies will be exhumed for identification once the emergency is over.

According to the World Health Organization, dead bodies do not usually create a serious health hazard "unless they are polluting sources of drinking water with fecal matter or are infected with plague or typhus."

Health workers say that overcrowding of evacuation centers with many people sharing makeshift toilet and water facilities could lead to the spread of communicable diseases.

Yolanda Oliveros, executive assistant to the secretary of health, said evacuation centers were crowded with children and old people and the government was flying in doctors and medical supplies.

Winnie's death toll

The death toll from tropical depression Winnie, which preceded Yoyong, breached the 500 mark yesterday, with 488 dead bodies recovered from Infanta, Real and General Nakar, all in Quezon province, Col. Jaime Buenaflor, head of the Army rescue teams, said in a telephone interview.

He said the death toll was based on body count conducted by troops who had reached the affected areas as of Friday morning. He said communications also bogged down Friday noon, cutting off his lines with the troops.

Buenaflor said 306 bodies were recovered from landslides in Real, 131 bodies in Gen. Nakar and 51 bodies in Infanta.

A total of 330 others were also reported missing in the same towns, he said.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) also reported 29 dead in Central Luzon, two in Bicol and one in the Cagayan region.

Buenaflor said the Army contingent was also moving closer to the town proper of Real, which was the hardest hit in Quezon.

Speaking to the INQUIRER by phone from Barangay Maragondon, Real, Buenaflor said

the weather "was still cloudy but the winds have calmed down."

He said a helicopter had made three flights to the remote areas, ferrying relief goods.

"We expect to conduct massive relief operations by Saturday," Buenaflor said.

Family packs, not guns

Maj. Gen. Efrén Orbon, chief of the 2nd Infantry Division, said 450 soldiers had been deployed to bring relief goods to Infanta, Real and General Nakar.

"Instead of firearms, they are now carrying family packs," Orbon said.

The Office of Civil Defense said Winnie, which slammed five regions in Luzon, affected 66,071 families, or a total of 335, 433 persons.

It said Winnie also destroyed 2,004 houses in Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog regions, and damaged 938 houses in the same regions.

Rains from Yoyong pummeled the coastal villages of Dingalan, Aurora, unleashing strong waves which engulfed nipa huts along the coast.

Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo said between 25 and 50 people died but this could not be immediately confirmed. She identified the battered villages as Umiray, Cabog (also known as Matawe), and Ibona.

"They fall between 25 and 50," she told the INQUIRER by telephone, referring to the number of people feared dead in those villages south of Dingalan.

She said these villages were completely cut off from the rest of Dingalan after coastal roads were eroded or were blocked with debris from the mountains.

Yoyong killed at least six people in the Bicol region.

Five still unidentified persons drowned in Camarines Norte and Albay and a certain Lito Coronel was electrocuted in Catanduanes, said Arnel Capili, director of the Office of Civil Defense.

Albay has been declared under a state of calamity.

At least 27,000 persons were evacuated from their homes in different parts of Bicol, the OCD said.

Communications were disrupted by power outages and severe phone lines.

The Northern Luzon Command said eight barangays in the northern Aurora were isolated by super Typhoon Yoyong.

Castillo said fresh supplies of food aid and medicines from the government had not reached the province as bad weather prevented Air Force helicopters from landing in the affected towns.

"I'm afraid the supplies are not going to last. Help should come soon," Castillo said, adding they needed food, medicines, blankets, clothes and potable water.

In Isabela, the provincial board declared a state of calamity following the destruction wrought by Typhoon Yoyong. Farm crops and infrastructure worth more than P525 million were destroyed and 174 villages were flooded.

In Cagayan, officials placed Tuguegarao City and Solano town under a state of calamity. The Tuguegarao government released P5.5 million to buy relief goods for flood victims.

Reports from Tonette Orejas, Jo Clemente, Carmela Reyes and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk, Villamor Visaya Jr., Frank Cimatu, Vincent Cabreza, Melvin Gascon, Ben Moses Ebreo, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Jed LL Bacason and Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP and Reuters

60 Sierra Madre tribals die in floods

AT LEAST 60 Agtas living in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges in General Nakar town perished from flashfloods and landslides, a Catholic priest from the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Prelature of Infanta, told the INQUIRER.

Fr. Pete Montallana said an estimated 45 families in several tribal community in the upper portion of Sierra Madre were swept by the raging landslide and floods from the upper portion of the mountain.

"Based from the initial information that I received from the natives, an estimated 60 Agta natives were feared dead. Their bodies missing, either swept by raging floods or still buried by the thick mud that flowed from the mountain," Montallana said over the phone.

He said he left Infanta on Thursday by hiking and crossing several landslides.

"The whole northern Que-

zon was devastated," he said.

He said they expected more casualties from the more than 3,000 tribe members in Gen. Nakar.

Many more missing

"Many were still missing and still unaccounted for. The government and private search and rescue teams have yet to arrive in the area," he said.

Montallana blamed the operation of big time illegal loggers as the culprits of the tragedy that hit Real, Infanta and General Nakar.

"If the government cared to listen to all our pleas to stop all forms of logging in Sierra Madre, legal and illegal, this calamity will not happen. But they did not listen despite several protests and demonstration," he said.

He said they will comb Sierra Madre up to Aurora today to check the condition of different tribal communities.

Volunteers ...

From page A1

Efrellyn was with the ORD (Organizing for Rural Development)-Life Emergency Response Team that arrived in Barangay Llavac in Real, Quezon, Tuesday morning, right after news of the landslides and floods broke out.

The team was composed of volunteers trained not only in search-and-rescue skills but also in disaster management.

"But even a veteran rescuer would surely break down when confronted with the magnitude of the tragedy," Efrellyn noted.

The team was formed as one of the components of a disaster management program that was launched and implemented in 1998 by the ORD, a social development/nongovernment organization based in Lucena.

Its members were extensively trained by local and international experts in emergency operations during disasters, and were provided specialized equipment.

Grieving

Efrellyn said that when they arrived in Llavac and were told that at least 30 landslides were blocking the road, the team leader decided that they would hike their way through the mountainous side of the village.

Harold Mercado, a volunteer doctor from the provincial health office, led the 13 ORD-Life members. Twelve rescuers from the Lucban-based group Alert joined them.

"When we reached the first village, what greeted us was a grieving family with four dead members—three children and one adult. Their house was swept away by the rampaging waters from the mountain," Efrellyn recalled, still shaken by the experience.

The team tended to those who were injured by the falling debris.

In the next days, the team had several more encounters with grieving survivors, each with their own stories of fear and sorrow.

"We not only treated the injured, we also listened to their woes if only to lift their morale and give them courage and hope," said Efrellyn, a psychology graduate of the Southern Luzon Polytechnic College in Lucban.

She said the team survived the three-day ordeal with what was left of the cookies, "compact food" and bottled water that it had brought.

At least 100 families, whose houses were carried off by the raging river, are now temporarily housed at the Rodriguez gymnasium, just across the road from the town hall.

"Almost half of the cookies I had, I handed out to some of the survivors that we met on the road," Efrellyn said as she slowly ate a banana.

"No one could ignore the pitiful situation staring us in the face. 'Help' was the only word being uttered by the devastated people in north Quezon," she said.

"Almost half of the cookies I had, I handed out to some of the survivors that we met on the road," Efrellyn said as she slowly ate a banana.

Bayanihan spirit alive, well

"No one could ignore the pitiful situation staring us in the face. 'Help' was the only word being uttered by the devastated people in north Quezon," she said.

In the gymnasium in Rodriguez, Rizal, which had been converted into an evacuation center, the Filipino spirit of "bayanihan" spirit could not have been more evident in the past few days.

There is a continuous stream of goods arriving, keeping municipal social workers busy all day.

Individuals, religious groups, businesses, schools and homeowners associations have been dropping off sacks of clothes, packs of noodles and boxes of canned goods.

"Look, I've filled three pages with names and donations, for the past three days alone," said Evita Ramirez, a staffer of the local social work unit as she opens her record book.

Strength, warmth

Evita says every time someone comes through the door bearing donations, she is overwhelmed by feelings of warmth.

She and her colleagues have slept little during the crisis, but the kindness and sympathy that people have shown have given them the strength to go on.

"You feel happy, knowing people care... and that makes you go on. We haven't slept well but we feel all right because of them," she said.

An Indian arrives with one sack of rice and two plastic bags of noodles and sardines. An elderly lady brings a sack of used clothes. Two men carry bags of canned goods.

An electric company drops off a large bundle of used clothes; they cover an entire corner of the lobby. A store gives 50 cans of rice. One man, who signed himself in as "Winston" tells the social workers he had 10 sacks of rice in his vehicle.

Right thing to do

"People need help... I saw it on TV, and it seems the right thing to do," said the Indian, a resident of Marikina, who wanted to remain anonymous.

Remedios Gomez, who is active in the local church, helps in the sorting and packing of foodstuffs.

"You feel lighter... you feel so much better inside when you have helped. That's why I'm here," said the 60-year-old who lives in Barangay Burgos which was mostly spared from Winnie's onslaught.

The son of a municipal employee, John Carlo Gomez, 13, helps out by checking the number of noodle packs in each plastic bag. Barangay health workers Leonida Tillio, 61, Maria Olden, 56, and Evelyn Idala, 49, assist the doctors and health workers.

"This is our town... we want to help in any way we can," they said.

Tears for refugees

Soledad Briz, who heads the town's social welfare unit, says the experience has made her stronger.

"I've cried several times listening to the refugees' stories. I can only imagine their situation... but I'm glad that other people are helping. It has made my belief in us stronger," she says.

Social workers said the refugees badly need blankets, mattresses and especially kitchen utensils. They will need kettles, plates, glasses, stoves and other paraphernalia when they are transferred to their new homes.

Solon says it's senators' turn to cut their pork

From page A1

congressmen had already given up part of their pork in the 2005 national budget. Now it's time the senators returned the favor and gave up their share of the Priority Development Assistance Fund for typhoon victims.

Nograles was reacting to Senate President Franklin Drilon's challenge to senators and congressmen to give up portions of their pork barrel funds this year to the victims of recent flash floods and landslides, saying the government's calamity fund would not be enough to meet the urgent demand for relief supplies.

"We have already given up our pork. Did anyone give up their

pork when we were bombed in Davao and for the war in Mindanao? So many people died there, too, right?" Nograles said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

"If we are really sincere in alleviating the plight of the poor, as we always claim when we justify the retention of our pork barrel, this is the opportune time to demonstrate such compassion," Drilon said.

Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo (Lakas, Pampanga) said that while he wanted to heed Drilon's call, there were many victims of the typhoons in his district who also needed his pork barrel.

"May I stress that senators do not have direct constituencies—unlike congressmen who are answerable to their districts. It

would be better if he (Drilon) gave my district relief goods and medicines from his pork barrel which is bigger than any congressman's allocation," Arroyo said.

Set example

Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon (LP, Muntinlupa) said senators should set the example by donating part of their pork barrel to typhoon victims.

"We also have victims in our respective districts. My district, located along Laguna Lake, was flooded and many families were affected," Biazon said.

He added that congressmen needed their pork funds to initiate projects that would prepare their districts for future calamities such as flood control infrastructure and

the purchase of disaster and rescue equipment.

"I sympathize with the victims of other districts but I will be doing my constituents a disservice if I don't take care of them first. I agree with Senator Drilon. Please, senators, use your pork barrel to help typhoon-ravaged areas. Your help is very much welcome in my district," Biazon added.

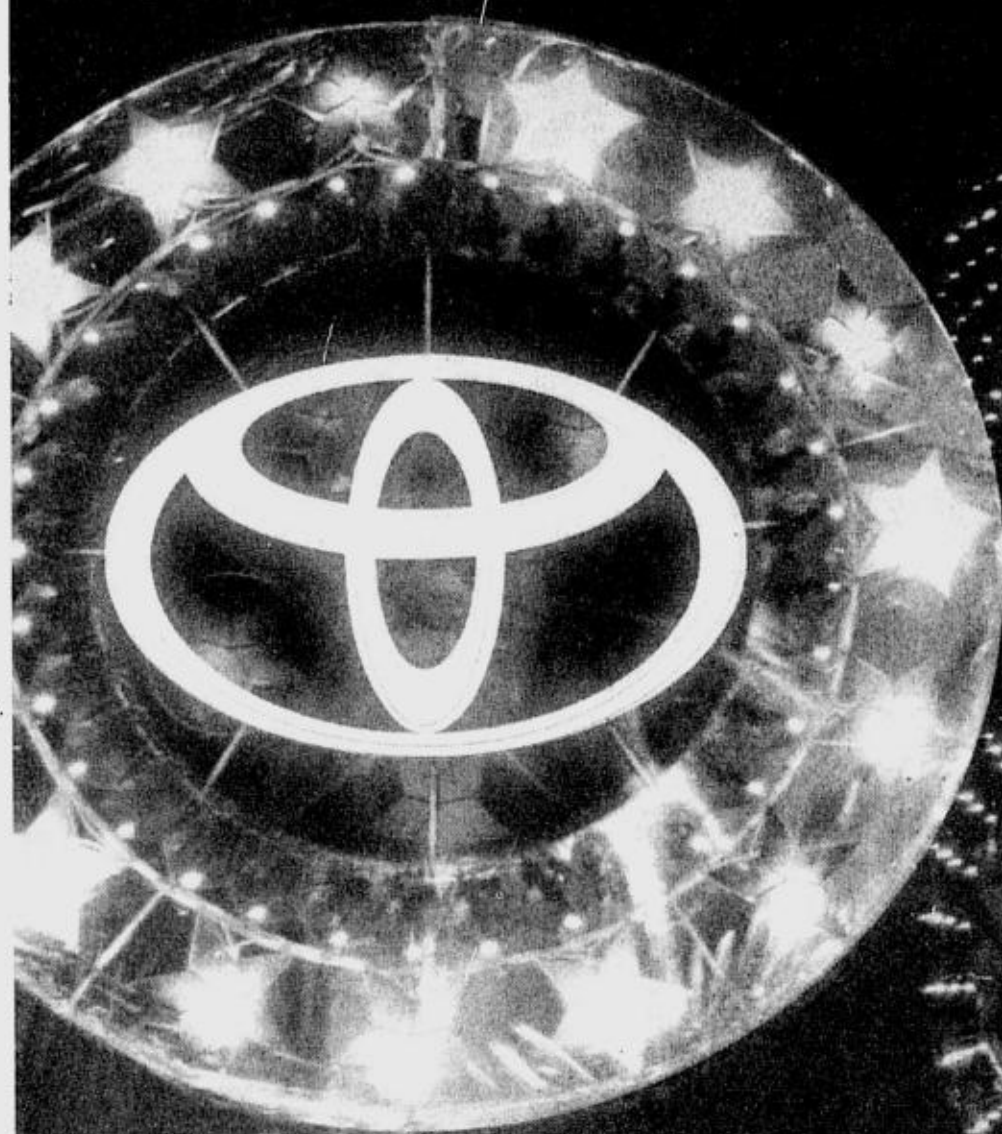
For Red Cross only

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said he was willing to give up the remaining P2 million from his soft project allocation this year, provided the amount be channeled to the Philippine National Red Cross which would help the typhoon victims.

Passion

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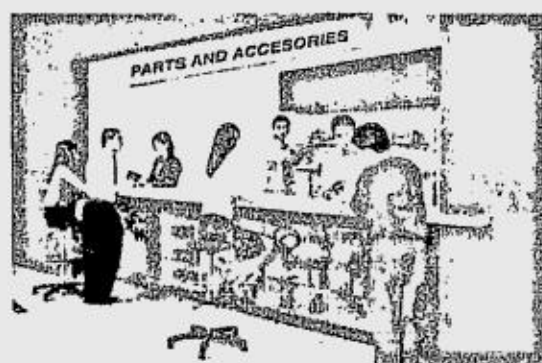
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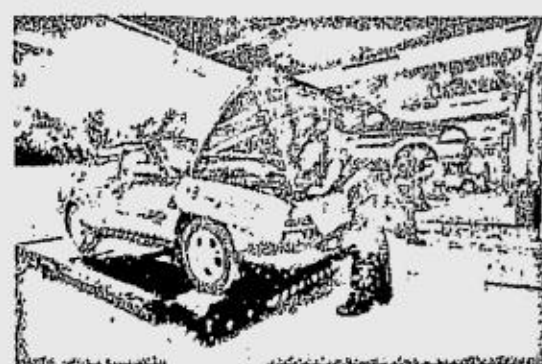
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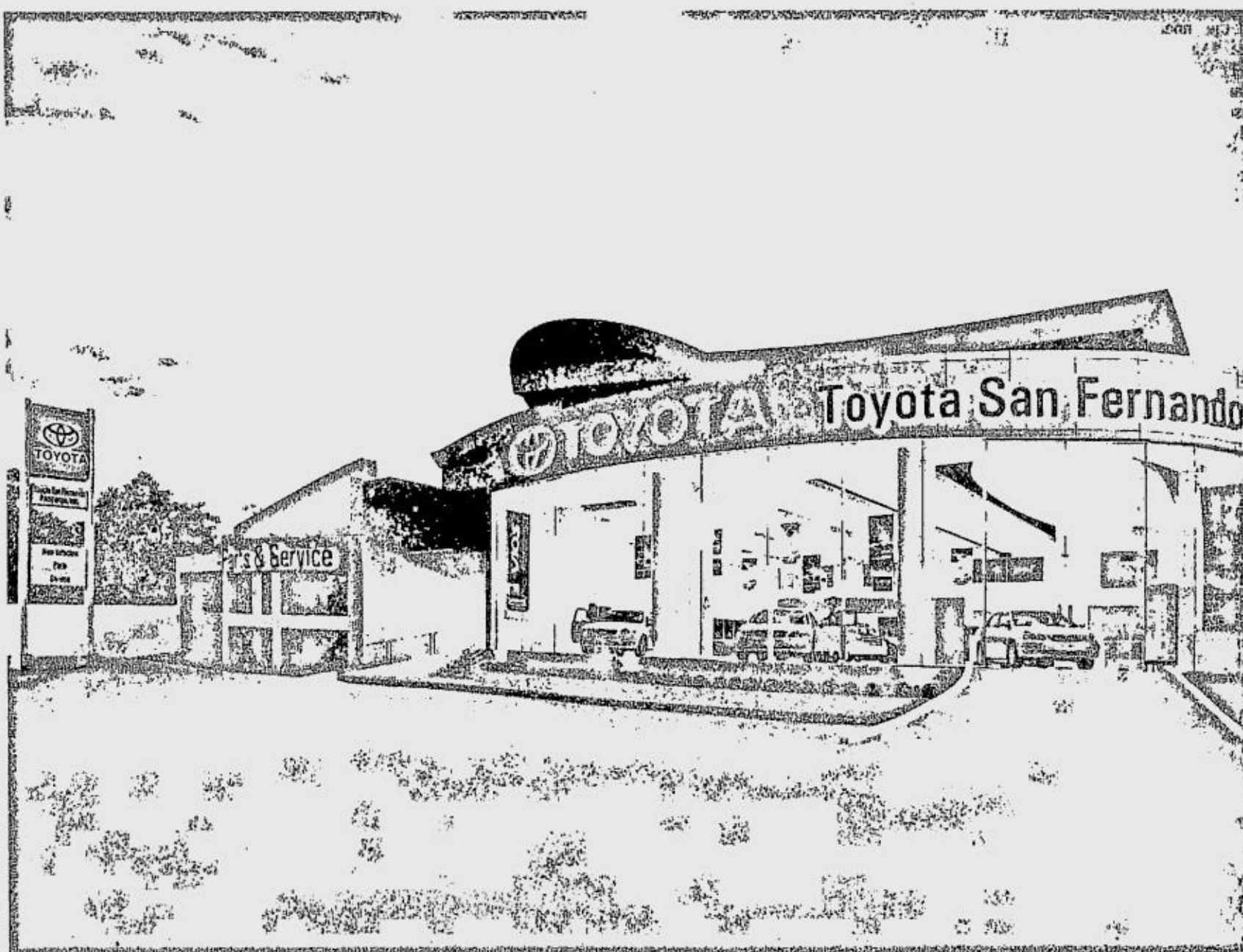
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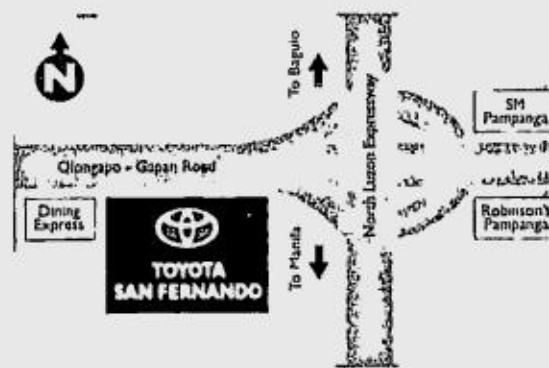
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Car bomb blast, attacks kill 25 Iraqis in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Guerrillas stormed a police station in southern Baghdad on Friday and detonated a car bomb outside a Shiite Muslim mosque in a tense northern area of the capital in attacks that killed at least 25 people, police said.

In a well-planned assault shortly after dawn gunmen fired mortars at the police station in the Seydiya district before bursting into the compound and hunting down policemen inside, survivors of the attack said. They said six police were wounded.

The insurgents also freed

around 50 prisoners from the jail in the police station and set two police pickup trucks ablaze.

Clouds of thick, dark smoke poured into the air.

In the Aadhamiya neighborhood, a stronghold of Saddam Hussein supporters where insurgents have launched frequent attacks on US troops and Iraqi secu-

rity forces, a car bomb blast outside a mosque killed at least 14 people, police said.

Aadhamiya is a mainly Sunni district. An attack on a Shiite mosque in the area is likely to heighten religious tensions.

US forces say insurgents are trying to incite civil conflict.

Guerrillas trying to drive out US-led troops and overthrow the American-backed government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi have mounted repeated attacks on Iraqi security forces, targeting po-

lice stations and checkpoints with suicide bombs and kidnapping and killing scores of police and National Guard.

In Mosul last month, insurgents stormed several police stations, looting them of weapons and equipment. Most police in the city deserted their posts and fled. More than 60 bodies were also found dumped in Mosul last month, believed to be Iraqi soldiers and National Guardsmen abducted and killed by gunmen.

Reuters

High court poised to rule on Ukraine impasse

KIEV—Ukraine's Supreme Court began its final session on Friday on whether to overturn the result of a disputed presidential election that has plunged the country into turmoil and generated distrust between Russia and the West.

Hundreds of supporters of opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko flocked to the capital's main square and near the court. But there were fewer massed in Kiev on the 12th day of mass protests to overturn official election results that handed victory to Moscow-backed Viktor Yanukovich.

Most political forces in Ukraine

agree a new election is needed to end a crisis that has hit the economy and fanned fears of a split in the country 13 years after it won independence from the Soviet Union, but differ on the sort of poll.

"The most logical way out of the crisis is for repeat voting to be held speedily within the next two weeks," Yushchenko said in the Wall Street Journal newspaper. "Talks involving international mediators this week reaffirmed this."

Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, who backed Yanukovich, has said that a rerun would be little more than a "farce."

Both sides in the standoff have agreed to wait for the verdict of the Supreme Court, which has been meeting all week to consider opposition allegations that the Nov. 21 ballot was rigged to favor Yanukovich.

Judges first would listen to concluding arguments from Yanukovich's lawyers, who say the opposition also falsified results in its stronghold in western Ukraine, then would deliberate and make its ruling.

The crisis, which has prompted a run on banks, has strained ties between Russia, which is concerned about losing influence in what it regards as its backyard,

and the West, keen to see a stable democracy on the edge of an expanded European Union.

In a fresh sign of US concern at what it sees as Russian attempts to steer Ukraine toward a pro-Moscow candidate, US President George W. Bush said on Thursday: "I think any election... ought to be free from any foreign influence."

During a short visit to Moscow, Kuchma gained Russian President Vladimir Putin's backing against calls for a quick re-run of the last round of the disputed election the opposition is certain it would win in the former Soviet republic. Reuters



GAZALA Praveen, 33, who became blind after methyl gas leaked from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal in 1984, holds her portrait at age 13 at her house in the central Indian city of Bhopal Dec. 2. More than 3,500 died soon after a Union Carbide plant, now a subsidiary of Dow Chemical Co., spewed clouds of highly toxic methyl isocyanate into the city.

REUTERS

Bhopal victims mark 20th anniversary of gas disaster

BHOPAL, India—It was midnight when gas began to leak from a Bhopal factory and killed thousands as they slept in central India 20 years ago.

At midnight on Thursday, some 100 survivors held a candlelight vigil to remember the night that changed their lives.

Sitting outside the shuttered plant holding photographs of loved ones who died when nearly 40 tons of highly toxic methyl isocyanate escaped from a pesticide plant on the night of Dec. 2, 1984, the protesters wept quietly.

"My hair stands on end every year at midnight on this day," Rashida Bi said during the vigil. Bi lost six members of her family to cancer after the gas leak. She suffers from chronic breathlessness. "It was like the end of the world. Those who died that night were lucky. The survivors are the unlucky ones. We have to eat kilos of medicines to keep going," she said, standing near a grey statue of a mother and child that remembers victims.

Rashida Bi is not alone. Two decades after one of the world's worst industrial accidents struck Bhopal, a city of lakes and mosques, thousands exposed to the deadly gas complain life is an endless battle with fading vision, breathlessness, joint pains, irregu-

lar menstrual cycles, depression, cancer and tuberculosis.

Activists say nearly 20,000 people are forced to drink groundwater that is poisoned because tons of toxic chemicals at the factory have been seeping into the soil.

"The water we drink is completely brackish," shouted Sakina Bi, who lives in a sprawling slum opposite the abandoned plant, then owned by Union Carbide, now a subsidiary of Dow Chemical Co.

"My daughter almost spends half the month in hospital because she often can't breathe. She has had three miscarriages."

Union Carbide accepted moral responsibility for the tragedy and established a \$100 million charitable trust fund to build a hospital for victims, said Tom Sprick of the Union Carbide Information Center. Union Carbide India Ltd. began cleanup work at the site after the incident, spending some \$2 million.

The government took over the site in 1998 and assumed further responsibility for clean-up operations.

Activists say nearly 8,000 tons of toxins including carcinogens such as trichloroethylene, benzene hexachloride and mercury have been found in groundwater near the factory, a cluster of about five blackened sheds with rusty pipes and cylinders standing amid acres of tall grass. Reuters

Britain, France, Germany back Annan; Bush wavers

UNITED NATIONS—Britain, Germany, France, Russia and China rallied around UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Thursday, but US President George W. Bush did not explicitly endorse the UN chief, under fire over suspected corruption in the now-defunct Iraq humanitarian program.

"Mr. Annan is doing an excellent job as secretary general," said Foreign Minister Jack Straw of Britain, a major US ally on Iraq, in a statement released in New York as other major powers and UN members expressed support for Annan.

The reactions came a day after US Sen. Norm Coleman, a Minnesota Republican who heads a committee investigating mismanagement in the UN oil-for-food program, called on Annan to resign.

Coleman, who chairs the Senate permanent subcommittee on investigations, said Annan should go because he had to be held "accountable for the UN's utter failure to detect or stop Saddam's abuses."

The plan, administered by the UN

secretariat and supervised by the 15-member Security Council which includes the United States, allowed Saddam Hussein's Iraq to sell oil to buy civilian goods in an effort to ease the impact on ordinary Iraqis of UN sanctions, imposed in mid-1990.

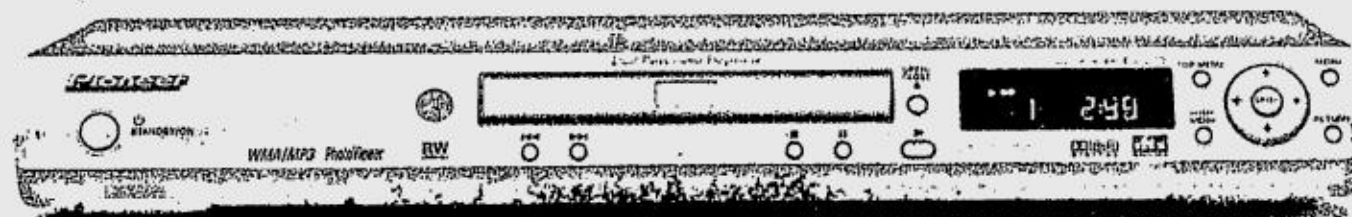
Asked by a reporter whether Annan should resign, Bush did not answer directly. "I look forward to the full disclosure of the facts, get an honest appraisal of that which went on. And it's important for the integrity of the organization to have a full and open disclosure of all that took place with the oil-for-food program," he said.

The state department said suggestions that Bush was wavering in support for Annan was "an overinterpretation of what the United States said."

"I talked to Secretary (of State Colin) Powell about this and he said he and the president have the highest regard for the work Kofi Annan is doing, especially his humanitarian work," spokesman Richard Boucher said. Reuters

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Evidence from torture can be used to detain enemies, US gov't says

WASHINGTON—Evidence gained by torture can be used by the US military in deciding whether to imprison a foreigner indefinitely at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as an enemy combatant, the government concedes.

Statements produced under torture have been inadmissible in US courts for about 70 years. But the US military panels reviewing the detention of 550 foreigners as enemy combatants at the US naval base in Cuba are allowed to use such evidence, Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General Brian Boyle acknowledged at a US District Court hearing Thursday.

Some of the prisoners have filed lawsuits challenging their detention without charges for up to three years so far. At the hearing, Boyle urged District Judge Richard J. Leon to throw their cases out.

Attorneys for the prisoners argued that some were held solely on evidence gained by torture, which they said violated fundamental fairness and US due process standards. But Boyle argued in a similar hearing Wednesday that the detainees "have no constitutional rights enforceable in this court."

Leon asked whether a detention based solely on evidence gathered by torture would be illegal, because "torture is illegal. We all know that."

Boyle replied that if the military's combatant status review tribunals "determine that evidence of questionable provenance were reliable, nothing in the due process clause (of the Constitution) prohibits them from relying on it."

Leon asked whether there were any restrictions on using torture-induced evidence.

Boyle replied that the United States never would adopt a policy that would have barred it from acting on evidence that could have prevented the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks even if the data came from questionable practices like torture by a foreign power.

Several arguments underlie the US court ban on products of torture.

"About 70 years ago, the Supreme Court stopped the use of evidence produced by third-degree tactics largely on the theory that it was totally unreliable," Harvard Law Prof. Philip B. Heymann, a former deputy US attorney general, said in an interview. Subsequent high court rulings were based on revulsion at "the unfairness and brutality of it and later on the idea that confessions ought to be free and uncoerced."

Leon asked whether US courts could review detentions based on evidence from torture conducted by US personnel.

Boyle said torture was against US policy and any allegations of it would be "forwarded through command channels for military discipline." He added, "I don't think anything remotely like torture has occurred at Guantanamo" but noted that some US soldiers there had been disciplined for misconduct, including a female interrogator who removed her blouse during questioning.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Tuesday it has given the Bush administration a confidential report critical of US treatment of Guantanamo detainees. The New York Times reported the Red Cross described the psychological and physical coercion used at Guantanamo as "tantamount to torture."

The combatant status review tribunals comprise three colonels and lieutenant colonels. They were set up after the Supreme Court ruled in June that the detainees could ask US courts to see to it they had a proceeding in which to challenge their detention. The panels have reviewed 440 of the prisoners so far but have released only one.

The military also set up an annual administrative review which considers whether the detainee still presents a danger to the United States but doesn't review enemy combatant status. Administrative reviews have been completed for 161.

AP

Americans taking more prescription drugs than ever

ATLANTA—Americans, long considered one of the most medicated peoples in the world, are swallowing more pills than ever, according to a report released on Thursday by the US government.

A total of 44 percent of Americans had taken at least one prescription drug in the prior month when surveyed in 1999 and 2000, compared to 39 percent during the 1988-1994 period, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services.

One in six adults was taking three or more of these drugs at the end of the decade, compared to about one in 10 in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The popularity of antidepressants, anti-inflammatories and drugs designed to control cholesterol and blood sugar levels helped fuel increased prescription use among all adult age groups, the HHS said in its annual report on Americans' health.

"Americans are taking medicines that lower cholesterol and reduce the threat of heart disease, that help lift people out of debilitating depressions and that keep diabetes in check," HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson said.

In the case of antidepressants, one of the most common types of drugs handed out by doctors, prescription use among adults nearly tripled between the 1988-1994 and 1999-2000 periods. Ten percent of adult women and 4 percent of men now take these drugs.

Although prescription drugs can dramatically improve the lives of patients suffering from often life-threatening diseases, they also have potentially serious side-effects when misused or prescribed recklessly.

Reuters

12 school kids in China slashed

BEIJING—A knife-wielding man forced his way into a primary school classroom in northeast China on Friday and attacked 12 young children, slashing them in the head and back, officials and state media said.

The man, whose identity is unknown, stormed into the Central Primary School in Mingcheng township in Jilin province at 9:20 a.m. and targeted a class of grade one pupils, mostly aged around six or seven.

Of the injured, five were boys and seven girls. They were rushed to hospital with four reported to be seriously hurt with head, ear and back injuries.

"It happened around 9:20 this morning. A man aged about 30 entered the school but not through the front gate," an official named Fu at the Panshi city education committee said.

"He rushed into a classroom and used a kitchen knife and injured 12 students. He was caught by the teachers and then the police arrived," he said, adding that there were 30 students in the class at the time.

"He was mentally ill," said Fu. "The local police are investigating this case and have reported it to provincial authorities."

AFP



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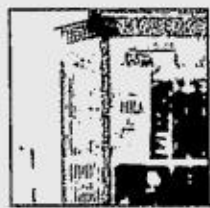
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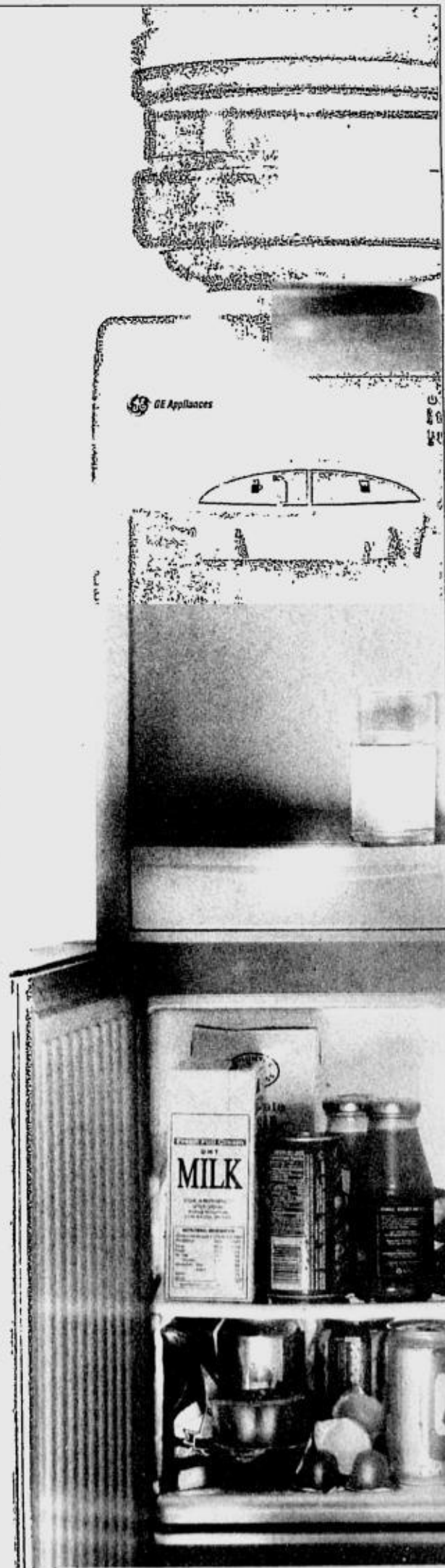
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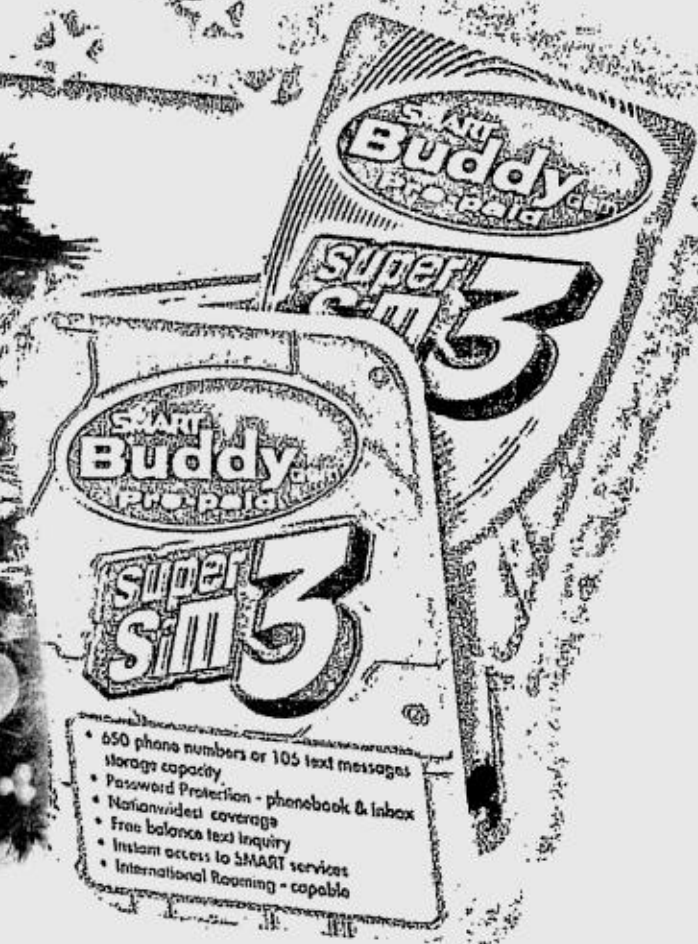
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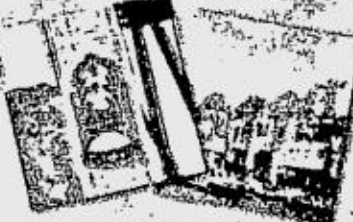
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OPINION

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Heroes and heels

THE WRECKAGE is being cleared, public utilities are being restored, the pieces are being picked up. In Real, General Nakar and Infanta, Quezon, rescue workers continue assisting survivors and looking for the dead, though as the sun comes out, the task gets grimmer. The prelate of Infanta is himself engaged in local rescue and relief operations.

Those who have something are giving to those who have lost everything. It is sad that it takes tragedies to bring people together, but come together is what everyone is doing. And that is good.

Valenzuela's city government has appropriated funds for rice, canned goods and other basic necessities to be sent to Quezon Province. Caloocan City donated P1 million to the Department of Interior and Local Government. Navotas sent amphibian vehicles and volunteers to help in rescue operations. Makati appropriated P8 million as aid to Nueva Ecija, and sent a group of city officials to the province, bringing with them medical personnel, medicines, rubber boats, relief goods and clothes. Quezon City promised to give P5 million. The Philippine Coast Guard airlifted 36 injured people, including 12 children, to its headquarters in Manila.

The country is taking stock of its losses, and also pausing to pay tribute to those who gave their lives helping others. Fr. Charlito Colendres tied one end of a rope to a tree and was throwing the other end to people caught in a flash flood during typhoon "Winnie" when he was himself swept away.

It seems as if the whole country is heeding the call for everyone to pitch in with relief goods and by volunteering services. The Philippine National Red Cross as always, is in the lead, but very many NGOs are not far behind in doing what they can. There are doctors, dentists, nurses, engineers, laborers, military reservists, retired civil servants, social workers, ordinary men and women—but special, each and every one, for rendering what service they can—who answered their communities' call for action before and during the series of typhoons, and will continue doing so, long after. Their names will more likely than not remain unknown, even to those they've helped. Which is all the more reason for the nation to be grateful to them.

The bayanihan spirit is alive and well: in adversity, we can still salvage a sense of community. However, for all the sterling examples of heroism and dedication witnessed by the country, there are shameful acts of opportunism, and the horrific consequences of corruption and mismanagement.

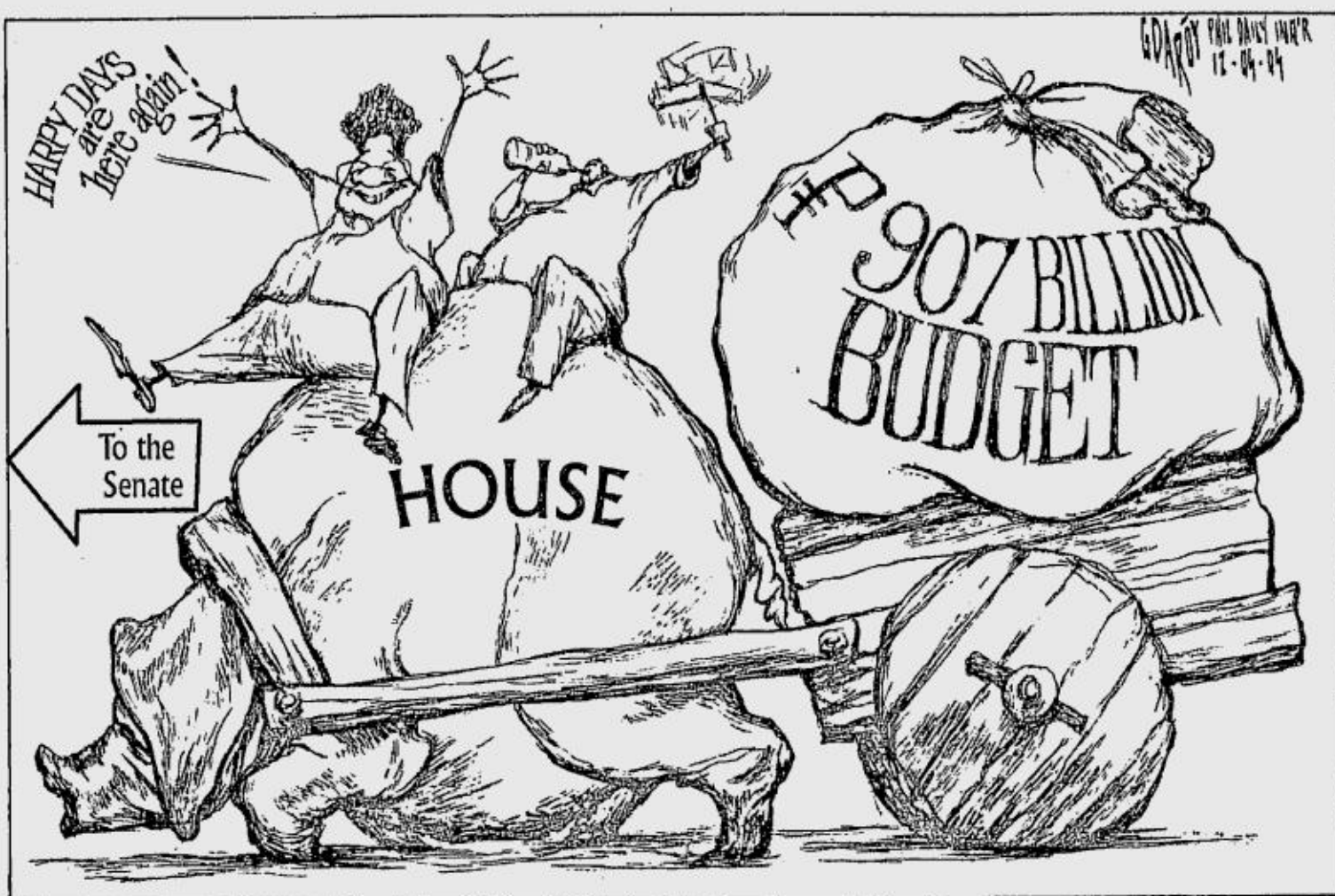
Eight soldiers of the Philippine Army were killed while six others were wounded in an "encounter" last Tuesday with the New People's Army in San Rafael, Bulacan. The soldiers, belonging to the 56th Infantry Battalion, were assigned to help in relief operations for the victims of "Winnie," according to Army officials.

Not so, says NPA spokesman Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal. "The 56th IB was never part of a rescue and relief operation," said Rosal who claimed that the military had been conducting offensive operations in the area for the past two weeks.

A military offensive in the middle of so much flooding and destruction? The NPA ought to provide a more credible explanation. We cannot help but wonder over the sense of misplaced priorities of a rebellion that senses a military opportunity in a national calamity. Besides, for all its much vaunted solidarity with the masses, the NPA and its allies have been conspicuously absent from the scene of devastation due to the recent, and past, typhoons.

While President Macapagal-Arroyo sent her own helicopters and the Air Force said 30 percent of its air fleet was devoted to rescue work, the untold story is that many of their planes remain grounded for lack of spare parts. The Navy and Coast Guard, for all their efforts, have insufficient and aging vessels. The hard work and dedication of meteorologists at Pagasa are hampered by lack of proper and modern weather radar systems. Relief workers are unable to bury many of the dead properly due to lack of body bags. Provincial health centers lack equipment, doctors and nurses.

Everywhere there are shortages of vital emergency equipment, while officials have an oversupply of official cars and back-up vehicles. For every hero our country can think of with gratitude, there are dozens of heels who have made things worse than they should be.



A weakness for titles

SEPARATE
OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



Mrs. are no longer generally used when the person is a professional and must be titled by his career. The woman may not have finished anything but is fawned upon with the title of Madame although this may have an exciting connotation in some risqué circles. This presumptuous title is pejorative in the democratic ambience but not when used for Imelda during the dictatorship. It was intended as obsequious flattery.

I read somewhere that in Europe the only persons who can use their titles before their names are the doctor and the professor. I don't know if this is still true today, but I don't see why not. In trials before American courts, the judge addresses counsel as Mr. Black or Miss White and not Atty. Bueno or Atty. Diablo as in Philippine trials. Even our Supreme Court addresses the lawyer as "Attorney" and not plain "Mister" as if he were a lowly employee. Calling him "Mister" may suggest that he has been disbarred.

Other professionals have followed suit to proclaim that they are careerists and not ordinary persons without a college diploma or a license to practice. Thus, they identify themselves as Engineer Fuente or Architect Cuarto although not as Veterinarian but as Dr. Perrogato. Before long, we may also have other practitioners as Barbero Barbacerrado, Tubero Aguas and Sastre Pantalones. Their customers will no longer be known by that common term but will now be dignified as "clients," which used to be associated only with the lawyer like

the "pacientes" of the doctor.

These titles are even used now in the obituaries as if the deceased plan to continue working in the other world. Their relatives evidently do not believe that death is the ultimate leveler but still observes the caste system even in the afterlife. Lawyers obviously cannot practice in heaven because there will be no disputes or crimes there, so they will have to work only you-know-where, which will be a familiar venue.

Some titles are preceded by the "ex" to inform the public that the holder has retired or left office. I don't use the prefix because my title of Justice is permanent like President and General. You don't say ex-President Quezon or ex-General Lim even if they have long since retired. And I don't write (Ret.) after my name because people might think it means "Retarded."

And now let us talk of the widely used and often misused "Honorable." It is a respectful but not often a truthful description of the addressee and might in fact be meant as sarcasm or mockery or plain insult. It is employed for high government officials like the president in this country or members of the royalty in monarchical states. We also use it to address members of Congress (no doubt for their pristine honesty) and now, even the chair of the barangay who is the supreme head of his little turf. Generals, including those suspected of plunder, also expect to be addressed as "Honorable."

Things could be simpler and less pompous if everybody could be called Mr. or Mrs. or Mang Juan or Aling Maria with no prefixes or suffixes to adorn their names. This way, the police cannot distinguish between the High and Mighty and the lowly citizen with no title to impress or intimidate. Both of them can be validly arrested, for murder or jaywalking, without discrimination or preference.

Hope from the not so young

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



And even if they had high social rates of return in that they "benefit the poor," the point is that other projects would give even more benefits to the poor.

The future would be dark indeed if we were to depend solely on young legislators. But there is a ray of light. There are two legislators who at this point can be considered the hope of the future—at least our fiscal future. And it is ironic that these two legislators will never see 80 again. I am referring to Rep. Herminio Teves, 84, and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, 80.

Teves was in the news weeks ago, when he matter-of-factly opined that there must have been a lot of money that flowed from the cigarette lobby, earning for himself the ire of his colleagues. Since he is senior vice chair of the House committee on ways and means, his statement was given tremendous coverage. He subsequently denied that he gave a figure to the amount of money, but he refused to back down on the sense of his statement.

A few days ago, he was in the newspapers again because he took out a full-page ad, entitled "How Serious Are We in Raising Revenues?" Why he took out the ad, I don't know, but one can make a guess: dramatic statements about payoffs are news, but serious statements about how to raise revenues to beat the fiscal crisis are not, so if you want people to read about them, you have to spend. I don't know how much the ads cost him, but I'm glad he placed them, because a lot of what he says makes sense—from requiring transparency in

tax transactions to interagency cooperation to establish a data base, to benchmarking tax payments by corporations, to requiring copies of income tax payments before cars and trucks can be registered.

But he saves his most pithy comments on the sin tax measures. On that infamous insert which freezes the classifications of cigarettes in existence since 1996 and gives them undue advantage over those introduced after 1995, Teves quotes former Finance Secretary Lito Camacho as saying that government lost P40 billion in taxes from 1999 to 2002. Teves then estimates that Fortune Tobacco saved P28 billion in taxes during that period, and Philip Morris P10 billion.

On the Senate side, Enrile has a bill that removes the flaws (too many specific tax classifications) and biases (favoring old versus new brands; cigarette companies over the Filipino people) of the House bill, as well as renders immaterial the classification freeze. But the Senate bill reported out by the ways and means committee (Recto bill) ignored the good senator. In fact, it looks suspiciously like the draft that Harry Tan (Lucio's brother) reportedly gave Cesar Purisima after that meeting at the President's Forbes Park residence between government officials and cigarette companies that sold the Filipino people down the river.

Nonetheless, Enrile is fighting on. On Tuesday, when he interpellated Sen. Ralph Recto, Enrile got to ask only 20 of the 200 questions he had prepared. But already he shot the Recto bill full of holes. It was evident to onlookers that the Recto bill was even more flawed (if that is possible) than the House bill.

A suggestion: Since the legislature seems to have so much trouble coming out with meaningful tax measures, why doesn't it just appoint a committee of two, composed of Enrile and Teves, to do the job? That way, the Filipino people won't be screwed.

Need to protect Filipino interests

WHEN President Macapagal-Arroyo met with Inquirer people last Nov. 25, after attending the Apec Summit in Chile and a visit to Mexico, among the things she stressed was how much she was impressed by Chile's progress. She is not alone. For Chile was the first country in South America invited to join the North American Free Trade Agreement and over the years it has maintained the best credit rating in the continent (BBB+). One of the smaller countries along the Pacific Rim, Chile adopted sound economic reforms that have become a model in that continent of over 300 million consumers. Today it has outstripped much bigger countries in Latin America, such as Brazil and Argentina, and is the No. 1 economy there.

GMA stressed that the engine of Chile's phenomenal growth has been its mining industry (its No. 1 export product is copper). She said Chile's example left much hope for the Philippines, the 5th mineralized country in the world, as it awaited the decision of the Supreme Court on a motion for reconsideration that would vastly affect the local mining industry.

On Jan. 27 this year, the Court, by a vote of 8-5 on a test case involving an Australian mining firm, virtually nullified the Mining Act of 1995 by disallowing wholly owned foreign companies from exploring and developing RP's mining sector, whose value is estimated to be close to \$965 billion. That decision, penned by Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, was appealed for reconsideration jointly by the solicitor general and the Chamber of Mines.

Interestingly, last Dec. 1, only five days after GMA's session with the Inquirer, the Court reversed itself by a 10-4 vote with one abstention (Justice Adolf Azcuna, who lawyered for the Australian firm). In a 246-page decision penned by Justice Artemio Panganiban, the Court allowed wholly owned foreign companies to engage in "large-scale" exploration and utilization of the country's mineral wealth. It also held that the "service contracts" entered into by foreign companies, which it declared unconstitutional last January, do not become illegal just because the Constitution makes no

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

mention of the term.

Given GMA's observations about Chile's economic miracle, did she influence the Court on this decision? At first blush it may seem so, but upon closer look, one realizes that among the four who did not go with the majority decision to open the mineral sector to foreign companies, three are GMA's appointees: Justices Antonio Carpio (her former legal adviser), Carpio-Morales and Romeo Callejo. On the other hand, five justices made a turnaround from their original vote last January, namely, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Reynato Puno, Leonardo Quisumbing, Dante Tinga and Renato Corona. These five were joined by the two GMA appointees this year, Justices Menita Chico Nazario and Cancio Garcia, as well as three others who were for foreign participation even last January, namely, Justices Panganiban, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez and Alicia Austria-Martinez.

From what I gathered, the issues were hotly debated among the justices, following their decision to call for oral arguments last June that pitted Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo and former Justice Florentino Feliciano, representing the Chamber of Mines, against Prof. Marvi Leonen of the UP College of Law, who represented the Bugal-B'laan tribe. That the debates were highly spirited can be gleaned from the way the justices voted. While three GMA appointees departed from the majority decision, the two remaining Erap appointees, Santiago and Gutierrez, took opposite stands. Carpio and Morales reportedly issued very long dissenting opinions, while Tinga and Nazario issued concurring opinions that were almost as

long.

The Chief Justice must have been convinced to switch sides after Panganiban cited Constitutional Commission debates that showed delegate Davide not seeking to ban service contracts with foreign companies in large-scale endeavors involving oils and minerals, but rather to seek safeguards to prevent their abuse. Ultimately this led to the Mining Act of 1995.

I wouldn't be surprised if Malacañang whispered to some friends inside the Court about the need to liberalize the mining industry, if RP is to catch up with wealthier neighbors in the region. But doubtless the justices were also affected by criticisms from the business community that they had been venturing into economic policies, an area that is best left to the executive and legislative departments to carry out.

There's also their concern about keeping that delicate balance between the need to spur the economy with its primary resource, its mines, and protect the nation's patrimony for its people. One remembers how some mining companies in the past blatantly ignored environmental concerns, e.g., Marco's dumping of mine tailings into Calan Can Bay in Marinduque which ruined it forever. The task of striking that balance has to be left to the executive and legislative departments, but in the light of the recent horrendous floods caused by illegal logging, this hope is not encouraging. We can only pray that our leaders will not fail us this time.

Tomorrow, Dec. 5, the last in the series of four Sunday lectures on the theme "St. Therese of Lisieux: A Model for Contemporary Christian Living" will be held. The series is jointly sponsored by St. John of the Cross Monastery and the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites of St. Teresa of Jesus (Manila community). The speaker will be new Carmelite provincial Mariano "JunJun" Agruda, OCD, who will speak on St. Therese's "Spirituality of Imperfection" from 2 to 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine on Doña Juana Rodriguez St. cor. 5th St., New Manila, Quezon City. The public is cordially invited.

Women of Marrakesh

MARRAKESH—The winner of the Gender Equity Award, which is being given for the first time this year as part of the Global Media Awards, is the Ennakhil Association for Woman and Child, a non-government organization founded in 1997.

"Ennakhil" is the Arabic word for "palm tree," which is also the emblem of Marrakesh. In its brochure, the association uses the palm tree to illustrate the interlocking relationships among its various fields of activity and advocacy, which include education and training, social development, health, justice and politics.

Meeting with the delegation from Population International, as well as the other Global Media Awards winners, Dr. Zakia Mirili, the association's president, outlined Ennakhil's scope of work, which is broad indeed. Its most basic mission, she said, is to reach out to the 65 percent of women in Morocco who are poor and illiterate and are thus in no position to know and defend their rights. "In the last five years, we have worked with about 10,000 women," Dr. Mirili said, providing basic literacy classes and holding consciousness-raising sessions, as well as establishing income-generating projects, such as a women's handicraft cooperative.

Ennakhil also provides counseling and care to survivors of domestic violence, and refers them to lawyers who will handle their cases pro bono. In the field of reproductive health, they conduct training and orientation on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

Hand in hand with providing necessary and urgent services, Ennakhil also engages in legal and legislative advocacy, counting among its most prominent victories the passage last year of the new Family Code that addresses many of the more blatant manifestations of gender inequity in Moroccan society. It's said that the new Family Code was passed, despite the stringent opposition mounted by, as Dr. Mirili enumerates, "the Islamists, traditional-minded politicians, police, judges and parliamentarians," mainly because King Mohammed VI strongly supported its passage.

AMONG THE "REVOLUTIONARY" changes ush-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ered in by the new Family Code, said Dr. Mirili, are: raising the minimum age of marriage from 15 to 18; making polygamy "very difficult" for men after many conditions were imposed before a man could legitimately found a second, third or fourth family; allowing a woman to report abuse by her husband with no need for male witnesses; making it possible for a woman who divorces her husband to keep custody of her children; and giving single women with children legal recognition as mothers even without having been married.

But, says Dr. Mirili, "so many other laws still need to be changed." Which is why another major plank in Ennakhil's crowded menu of programs is expanding the role of women in politics, supporting legal measures meant to encourage more women to run for office and training young women in politics and gender orientation.

Listening to Dr. Mirili's presentation, I had a funny feeling that I'd heard it all before. Of course, the issues they hope to address are quite familiar to Filipinos, or at least to those interested in gender issues. But in our country, the issues that Ennakhil hopes to address are assumed by quite a number of women's organizations. Ennakhil, said Population International president Werner Fornos, is the first of its kind in the Arab world, and is taking on the whole plethora of gender inequities all by its lonesome.

STILL, the women of Ennakhil might not be fighting a lonely battle for long. Next on our agenda was a visit to the Lycee Aouda Saan, a government-run all-girls' high school, the only such school in the Medina or old city of Marrakesh.

Readers react

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

true of small arms like the M-16 rifle. These weapons have a certain 'service life,' even if they are meticulously kept up, and I doubt that they are here. Beyond that predictable service life, the weapons become useless junk and not only 'should be' disposed of but 'need' to be disposed of because they are putting the life of any soldier who uses one of them in danger. Chances are the weapon will fail in the heat of battle, and if it doesn't totally fail, it will be so inaccurate that it still puts the life of the soldier using it in grave danger. The difference between a man walking into battle with no weapon at all and with an old, defective weapon is negligible.

If true, *kawawa talaga yung mga sundalo natin*. To add insult to injury, according to our writer, the US Armed Forces is ill-equipped to understand the nuances of guerrilla warfare and "are hardly the ones to try to teach it someone else. Our guerrilla warfare tactics got us run right out of Vietnam and our efforts in Iraq, in spite of what the embedded press reports, are not much different. The stark truth of the matter is that you cannot send AFP enlisted, senior enlisted and junior officers up against an enemy when they haven't the arms and equipment with which to fight that enemy."

Here comes the clincher. If I really want to write a "meaningful" series of articles on the AFP, he suggests I "investigate where the money to buy supplies and equipment went and why no effort is being made to adequately supply and equip mem-

We visited the school to look into the activities of their Health Club (Club de Sante) which runs a peer-to-peer reproductive health counseling program, known as Jeunes por jeunes or Youth for Youth, with funding from the United Nations Population Fund.

Standing proudly beside posters they had obviously slaved over were teenage girls, some in long robes and veils, others in denims and white coats, explaining their many activities, from educational theater to group discussions, workshops on various aspects of health (including rather grisly illustrations of the wages of smoking and drugs), and discussions on matters like sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS (called "SIDA" in the European fashion).

Aside from hosting discussions on health concerns, the members of the Health Club, with their faculty advisers, also help manage a counseling center, which includes a "listening room" where, as one teacher assured us, "any girl with a problem can come in and talk to us about it, without fear."

ONE of the things that struck us visitors about the school was how it illustrated the way in which a multicultural Islamic society works. English teacher Mr. Elcadi quite proudly told us that "you can drop by any classroom and you will see girls in veils and girls without veils sitting side by side and working together, taking no notice of their differences."

The school has no policy on veiling, said the teacher, and no uniform is imposed. "It is their choice," he added.

Interestingly enough, the all-girls' high school (there are also "mixed" high schools, we were told) is named after one of Morocco's early women leaders, a suffragist who campaigned for women's rights. "She is buried within the school grounds," Mr. Elcadi volunteered.

As we exited the school, passing a phalanx of young women who had been let out of classes precisely to meet the visitors from abroad, I couldn't help thinking what Aouda Saan thought about them, if she wasn't thinking that finally her life's work was bearing fruit.

bers of the AFP to do the job they need to do. Frankly, if I were sent into battle with a useless rifle and inadequate or even no equipment, I'd throw down my useless rifle and walk off the field of battle in total disgust. While what they did was wrong, I can well understand and sympathize with the enlisted and officers who participated in the Oakwood protest. There is a message there and no one seems to be hearing it."

Since our senators are so fond of investigations, I on my part suggest that Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Jun Magsaysay and the rest of the members of the Senate defense committee go find out for us what did happen to the money so I can write about it.

Finally, for a change of pace, here is an e-mail regarding the review of Fr. Alcina's book on the Visayas from Alen Mondido of Iloilo who now works at Project Seahorse Foundation in Cebu. What prompted him to write was "the mention of the place Damilisan in Alcina's book that in 1668 was (sic) part of Oton, Iloilo. If I am not wrong, the place has still retained its name at present. The editors (Fr. Lucio Gutierrez, please take note) might not have been able to trace the exact location of the place for it no longer belongs to the town of Oton, Iloilo but to Miag-ao. The present southern towns of Iloilo (Oton, Tigbauan, Guimbal, Miag-ao and San Joaquin) were part of the town of Oton. At present, the towns of San Joaquin and Miag-ao are two major livestock producers in southern Iloilo. Damilisan is about 47 km from the city of Iloilo. It is a coastal town and somehow still fits the description of the author of the book in 1668."

As I have often mentioned, the friar chronicles have some of the most interesting information about the early years of Spanish colonialization when many of the people were not yet Hispanized.

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Adversity 101

THEY say that adversity brings out the best and the worst in men. What they fail to mention is that it is also a great teacher. When caught in any adverse situation, we tend to focus only on overcoming it. We often overlook the importance of learning from the problem. And when we are battered by another storm, we act like sailors who have never sailed on a stormy sea and not mariners hardened by countless storms.

In my 25 years of existence, I've had my share of problems, although I have not yet turned into a certified survivor and a veteran of a thousand tribulations. But in spite of my lack of experience, I've picked up a number of lessons from the School of Adversity and Tribulation.

YOUNG BLOOD

Prospero E. Pulma Jr.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

The first lesson that I have learned is that a man is fortunate if half of the people who knew him at the zenith of his career do not desert him when he hits rock bottom. It takes a visit by the gods of misfortune to unmask fair-weathered friends and relatives and test the loyalty of those who understand the real meaning of friendship and kinship. They were right when they said that in prosperity, your friends will know you and in adversity, you will know your friends.

I have also learned that famine can render a man's tongue insensitive to the foul taste of spoiled food. When our refrigerators are bursting with provisions, we spoil our taste buds by eating only the most delicious and preferably the most expensive food. When poverty empties our cupboards and refrigerators, we are forced to eat food which would never touch our lips in better times.

Being perennially broke, I have learned to appreciate the value of P1 and save for a rainy day. But don't pity me because I am parsimonious and I know how to live within my means. Pray instead for the paupers who are already living like kings. If they will not mend their ways, bankruptcy will force them to tighten their belts with painful and sometimes permanent results.

I have also learned that adversity can effectively deflate a proud man's ego. Success, wealth and power can make a person believe that he is a demigod until he is demoted to the ranks of ordinary mortals when he fails. Then he will realize that like all men, he is bound to commit a major blunder, once or twice in his life. That history is littered with the names of mighty and proud men who were brought down to their knees by a single mistake is a lesson that the more gifted among us should never forget.

Adversity, like death, is a great equalizer. The only difference between the two is that we only die once while we are buffeted by many problems while we live. Even though nobody is assured of living a trouble-free life, some of us are given a heavier burden to carry than others. This unequal allocation of misfortune can be negated by how we deal with the challenges that are hurled at us. That is why some people triumph over impossible odds while others keel over after suffering a brief bout of bad luck.

Adversity is like a double-edged sword that can bring both harm and good. Some people emerge from a turbulent chapter of their lives stronger and wiser while others become weaker and more stupid. It is unfortunate that only a few of us care to etch the lessons learned from adversity in their minds.

Adversity is like a scar that reminds us of the pain that we felt when our skin was cut instead of warning us not to get wounded again.

Prospero E. Pulma Jr., 25, works as an editor of medical insurance claims at Cybersoft Data Networks Inc. He is also an undergraduate in medicine.

Ants

Jael Wenceslao

ANTS have invaded our house. I cannot get rid of them. They crawl along the counters, the walls and the floors. When I wipe them down with a wet cloth, they're back in a few hours. When I spray them with Baygon or Lysol, they reappear the next day. When I do find their destination, which is always something sweet and sugar-laden, and put that sugary delight in the refrigerator, they soon find another pastry or confectionery to exploit. No Tupperware can keep them out. Whatever I do, I can't get rid of them. I know it's a trivial, but it is also a frustrating problem nonetheless.

This problem has got me thinking about our lives and how they are constantly interrupted—either pleasantly or rudely, depending on the circumstance—by our memories. Like ants, memories, especially those associated with our "firsts"—our first crush, our first kiss, our first trip to the beach, our first ride on a bump car and so on—will always live in each person, no matter how young or old.

Unfortunately, we remember all of our "firsts"—even our first heartbreak, our first flunked exam, our first rejection by our friends, our first scolding by our parents, our first irresponsible action. Sadly, our memories can't be screened. The experiences that we go through are not always great and amazing. True, reminiscing can make us feel warm and nostalgic, but it can also make us feel ashamed and guilty—even impaired.

All too often, what we remember are the "firsts" that are embarrassing—our failures and shortcomings as a person, as a student or worker, as a son or daughter, as a father or mother, or as a husband or wife. Our successes and inspiring moments are overshadowed by our wrong and hasty decisions, our immature actions and our selfish acts. Our memories are like reruns of mediocre movies, playing back in our minds the awful moments, the horrendous truths, the impairing emotions.

Like ants that crawl everywhere, our memories crawl their way into our lives. Try as we might to get rid of these shameful memories, they always resurface—on the next day, week or month. No matter how hard we try and how old we become, these memories are never erased, only repressed. They linger at the back of our minds, coming and going as they please. They are forever imprinted in our minds.

The lead character in the book, "A Prayer for Owen Meany," said, "You think we have memories? Our memories have us." And he was right. If you think we have control over our memories, you're mistaken. These memories of ours are always in control. In the end, the only thing we'll take with us six feet under is our memories—with ants coming along.

Maybe I should pass by Cartimar and get an antenter as a pet.

Jael Wenceslao, 24, is a business management graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

Jewels shining in a dark night

I WAS hospitalized for more than three weeks, which drained my savings. But I am happy I got sick, despite the difficulties I went through. For during this period of confinement, I saw the best of human compassion, selflessness and concern that we ordinarily do not see in this mad, crazy world.

From a hospital in Tayug, Pangasinan, I was brought to Manila on an ambulance. I learned that a fellow minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, without my knowledge, went to the mayor of San Nicolas and pleaded with him to have the vehicle ready for the trip. The mayor, who did not know me personally and with whom I have no political connection, without sec-

ond thoughts, ordered his driver to bring me to Manila.

Fellow church workers, in spite of their low pay, passed the hat; one even donated P1,000 for my hospitalization. Another friend, a businessman, was kind enough to ensure I would have an oxygen tank while on the way to Manila.

Admitted as a patient at Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo, I had to look for a doctor who would treat me. One famous surgeon, Dr. Demetrio Pamora, and his colleague Dr. Arnel Arenas, who examined my heart ailment, provided their professional services free of charge. Through the INQUIRER, I would like to cite them for their high sense of compassion and professionalism, which they extended

even to a poor man like me.

I checked out of the hospital physically weak and financially drained, but I have seen human compassion, generosity and concern walking around on two legs. To all these people, including fellow ministers in Metro Manila—many of them unknown to me personally—let me say, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your help and prayers. The next time you hear people say that life is cruel, tell them of my experience. In a world that appears heartless and cruel, these people shine like jewels in a dark, dreary night.

—REV. SALVADOR D. EDUARTE,
United Church of Christ,
Talinakapor,
San Nicolas, Pangasinan

Akbayan is not against NorthRail

WE write in reaction to Rina Jimenez-David's column, "Bringing back the trains." (PDI, 11/16/04)

We have a high regard for David, but we have to point out that the NorthRail project will displace around 23,000 families. House Resolution 165, which I filed jointly with fellow Akbayan Representatives Loretta Ann P. Rosales and Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel and with 14 congressmen from the areas to be affected by the NorthRail and its counterpart in the South, seeks legislative inquiry on the matter. The joint resolution is directing the concerned government agencies to report to the House Committees on Housing and Urban Development and on Civil, Political and Human Rights the following:

1. Plans for the resettlement of the families to be affected by the project, including the proposed resettlement sites, the responsible implementing agency and other related matters.

2. Project updates on social

preparation and public consultations, with implementation time-tables.

3. Presentation and explanation of the budget, including funding sources, for resettlement.

4. Identity of the lead agency for the implementation of the resettlement plan.

We neither seek to muddle the issue nor intend to put a stop to the project. We only want to bring the plight of the affected families to the attention of the government, in the exercise of our oversight duties as elected representatives of the people. In my consultations with them, I have found that they do not oppose the project. These are reasonable, intelligent people who, under the network of NGOs and people's organizations in Bantay Riles, only demand that the government include them in the decision-making processes and deliver the benefits that are due them under the law, such as proper, humane and viable resettlement sites.

Studies have shown that past

relocation projects of the government failed because the affected poor residents were not involved in every step of the planning process.

Akbayan recognizes the benefits of the NorthRail. But we have to remind government that in displacing communities, we are moving not only people but lives as well; that the development process must not railroad the rights and welfare of poor people. The problem is not their misfortune of living beside railroad tracks but the lack of an effective housing program.

We do not seek to block the development of the country's railways, but we are determined to see to it that in the process, the rights of those who are supposed to benefit from the project are sufficiently balanced with the demands of development.

—REP. MARIO JOYO AGUJA,
Akbayan Party List
Room 514, South Building,
House of Representatives,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

OPINION

LETTERS

Cartoon unfair to Angelo Reyes

THIS is to call your attention to the editorial cartoon in the Nov. 26 issue of the INQUIRER, with Interior Secretary Angelo T. Reyes as the subject.

The cartoon paints the secretary in very graphic terms, as almost the personification of virtually all the evil things that one could think of—murder, corruption, illegal drugs, prostitution, *jueteng* and, by inference, someone who had something to do with the P19 billion that is supposedly unaccounted for. The cartoon, of course, does not explain that these are mere accusations.

It is our view that the material is not only judgmental and malicious, it is downright cruel and unchristian. It tends to convict him before the public eye, malign him and subject him to utter ridicule.

You may not be aware of it, but it is wild and unproven accusations such as these, given credence and wide exposure by media, that scare many decent people from accepting positions in the public service.

Where does one go for redress? How does one try to repair the damage done to his reputation by your cartoonist?

We really hope you can give us some answers to these questions.

—FELICIANO REGIS,
director, Office of Public Affairs,
Department of Interior
and Local Government,
A. Francisco Gold
Condominium II,
Edsa cor. Mapagmahal Street,
Diliman, Quezon City

Wrong Nasecore computation

THIS refers to a letter from a certain Dick Echavez (PDI, 11/30/04) of the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms, urging the Energy Regulatory Commission to correct Meralco's charges in relation to the recent rate increase of the National Power Corp. He said that Nasecore believes that the P1.075/kWh increase is 24.05 centavos higher than what Meralco can rightfully charge its customers following Napocor's rate hike.

Obviously, somebody who has been feeding Echavez and company with information about Napocor's billing to Meralco failed to provide a complete picture of the Napocor charges that went into Meralco's generation charge for November. In fact, the Napocor increase reflected in the bill is not only P1.2318 per kWh; neither is it the P1.3681 per kWh as claimed by Nasecore; it is P1.5929 per kWh. The components of the cumulative P1.5929-per-kWh adjustment are as follows:

Napocor's Provisional Increase—P1.2318; Napocor's June 2004 GRAM—0.1367; Napocor's May 2004 ICERA—0.0727; Napocor's GRAM DAA—0.1085; Napocor's ICERA DAA—0.0278; Napocor's Other Adjustments—0.0154; Total Napocor Increase—P1.5929

Furthermore, Meralco has already been paying Napocor the increases due its May ICERA and June GRAM, but it substantially reflected these only in its November

charges. Under the new adjustment mechanism approved by the ERC, the increases in the Napocor rates affect both the Generation Charge and System Loss Charge components of the Meralco bill.

Since Napocor is just one of the five generation companies from which Meralco buys the power it distributes, the full impact of the cumulative P1.59-per-kWh Napocor rate adjustments is tempered for Meralco consumers. In October, Napocor supplied 61 percent of Meralco's requirements. There was also low dispatch of the natural gas plants due to the ongoing rehabilitation of Transco lines in the south. All these factors have led to the P1.0750 increase in Meralco's Generation Charge.

Had Napocor supplied all of Meralco's requirements, the increase in the Generation Charge to our customers would have been the full P1.59 per kWh.

Nasecore continues to feed the public with misleading and false accusations which only contribute to further confusion. We challenge Echavez to bring Nasecore's computations to the ERC. If proven wrong, let him be gentleman enough to apologize not only to Meralco but also to our customers and the public for misleading them. That is, if they are really interested in the truth.

—ELPI O. CUNA JR.,
vice president and head,
Corporate Communication,
Meralco, Ortigas Avenue,
Pasig City

Let's bear with pork barrel

MANY Filipinos are against the pork barrel because they believe that with our politicians being corrupt, it just provides another window for graft. I do not disagree, but the alternative to pork barrel is the "centralization" of vast amounts of funds in the hands of non-elected government people. Placing the funds in the hands of non-elected officials does not ensure honesty.

Elected politicians have at least the motivation to do good because they will in time go back to the people for another mandate. Look at the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard and the centennial project at Clark, for example.

In current news is the case of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia. Had the funds been "decentralized" to the service commanders and separate unit commanders, who are directly responsible for the accomplishment of the AFP mission and the soldiers' welfare, Garcia could not

have, as alleged, malversed such huge amounts.

There is a 2-kilometer rugged road in Fort Bonifacio linking Bani Road to West Service Road. It is now being paved using funds from the pork barrel of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon (I was told). When finished, it will greatly benefit the residents of the AFPOVAL. I never could imagine even in my dreams the national or municipal government paving that road.

In the meantime, therefore, let us continue with the pork barrel—wasteful as it is—until we have an honest government that can implement a centralized, integrated and coordinated program.

—LT GEN. ANTONIO
E. SOTELO (Ret.),
Armed Forces of the Philippines,
19 Aguinaldo St.,
AFPOVAL, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig, Rizal,
ntsotelo@yahoo.com

Distorted sense of democracy

THE HACIENDA Luisita incident has brought to fore a continuing affliction that has long been eating up the foundations of this country with reckless abandon: our distorted sense of democracy.

What happened was that militant groups infiltrated the ranks of legitimate Hacienda Luisita laborers, to undermine democracy and its ideals, right at the country's biggest hacienda. All the arrested ralliers, except for five or six of them, are not connected with Hacienda Luisita or to the Central Azucarrera de Tarlac sugar mill.

The so-called cause-oriented groups, however, did more harm

than good by resorting to aggressive tactics. What we saw on video was downright violence, the same scenario we saw during Edsa III; the same people misguided by verbose leaders whose penchant for asserting people's rights in strong words isn't equated with deeds; the same leaders who disappear when the going gets tough for their followers.

The Hacienda Luisita fiasco is yet another page in our history from which to look back to and learn from.

—JACQUELYN A. EVAGELISTA,
Pandacan, Manila

Worthy soldiers

A FRONT-PAGE news report, "2 colonels explain poverty" (PDI, 11/10/04) is a story that inspires and gives us hope. It is a story of two professional soldiers who remained true to their oath and served with honor and dignity despite their poverty.

And on this record, they stood out among those who were

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Cops hold 2 in journalist's slay

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Kalinga police on Friday invited for questioning two men on the murder of 24-year-old writer Stephen Omais, but have yet to establish strong leads to his killers and the mastermind of his murder.

Working from a tip about a blood splattered trail that was sent by the principal of the school in Tabuk, Kalinga, where Omais' badly tortured body was found on Wednesday, the police invited a pedicab driver and the victim's friend to shed light on the killing. Omais was a reporter of Guru Press, a community newspaper in

Kalinga that was established only this year.

Tabuk police investigators said forensic evidence suggested that Omais was hit several times in the head with a rock.

In a press statement, Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, Cordillera police director, said the police had in their

custody Aniceto Uera, 42, a pedicab driver whose vehicle was recovered from the crime scene.

Police also invited Joey Patinglag, whom they described as Omais' friend.

No other details were given by investigators.

Kalinga Gov. Dominador Belac, Albano, and Supt. James Dogao, Kalinga police director, offered a P20,000-reward for information on Omais' murder.

But the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said Omais' murder, the 12th this year, "highlights how inutile law enforcers have be-

come in the face of criminality."

"Top Philippine National Police officials, including Director General Edgardo Aglipay, have hinted that lack of fairness in reportage and the lack of discipline on matters of security are major factors in the murders of journalists. Aglipay is wrong," said NUJP Chair Inday Espina-Varona.

She said Omais was on the trail of corruption charges involving a public works project in Pinukpok town in Kalinga.

"He was killed and his Guru Press colleagues threatened with the same because criminals did not want the truth exposed. We can sur-

mise that Omais was tortured to extract information about sources or about documentary proof he and (his) colleagues may have gathered," she said.

Varona urged Aglipay to "stop blaming journalists" for their own murders.

"Stop trying to hide a miserable record in upholding law and order by casting aspersions on the victim. The PNP should stop advising panaceas... Carry arms? Get security?... Criminals have the cash to hire the best assassins. A firearm will not protect anyone from a determined killer," she said.

Int'l journalists' group assails gov't inability to stop murders

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has scored the Philippine government for its inability to stop the rising death toll of journalists in the country after the murder of a reporter of a community newspaper in Kalinga on Friday.

"The Philippines is a country that boasts of democracy and a free and open press. However, 13 murdered journalists in one year suggest a darker reality," said IFJ president Christopher Warren in an e-mailed statement dated Dec. 2. The IFJ has around 500,000 mem-

bers worldwide.

"While the Philippine government continues to sit on its hands and talks about press freedom, journalists continue to die without a single prosecution," said Warren.

Dumped

The body of Stephen Omais was found on Wednesday in a garbage bin with torture marks several days after he was abducted by unidentified men.

He was the 61st journalist killed since 1986 when democracy was restored, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

Alarmed over the unabated killings of journalists, the IFJ will send a delegation of journalists and officials to the country in early January. The mission will go to provinces with the highest number of killings and attacks and will meet with government officials "to discuss the culture of impunity that appears to be responsible for the rising death toll of journalists," said Warren.

"How many more journalists have to die before the Philippine government will put their words into action? The people responsible for these deaths are not being prosecuted and until they do

journalists will continue to die. It is well and truly time for this culture of impunity to end," said Warren in an earlier statement.

NUJP Chair Inday Espina-Varona lashed at the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies for their inability to stop the killings despite repeated pronouncements.

Police scored

"We challenge law enforcers and other national officials: Stop blaming journalists for their murders. Stop trying to hide a miserable record in upholding law and order by casting aspersion the victims," said Varona.

She was reacting to statements of top police officials who have hinted that the lack of fairness in reportage and the lack of discipline on matters of security are major factors in the murders of journalists.

Varona said proposals of the police like the implementation of a national identification system and to arm journalists will not solve or prevent the killings.

"If the PNP did not hear us right the last few times, let us repeat this: There are no shortcuts. The only way to stop the continuous murders is by arresting, prosecuting and convicting killers," said Varona.

Luisita soldiers fired guns, says labor exec

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Army soldiers did fire guns during the Nov. 16 dispersal of striking Hacienda Luisita workers, seven of whom died.

Francisco Lintag, the sheriff sent by the Department of Labor and Employment to enforce the order to normalize the operations at the sugar mill, said this in a sworn statement given to the National Bureau of Investigation.

"He saw soldiers rushing towards the strikers while firing their firearms upward," a summary of Lintag's statement contained in the copy of the progress report by the NBI's investigating team showed.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco on Thursday gave reporters a copy of the report.

The report said: "And when the firing stopped, he (Lintag) saw several persons (with injuries or already dead) being brought to the hospital by ambulances."

Lintag, the report said, saw this as he ran away from the 6,000-hectare estate's Gate 1 where the

strikers were holed up.

He said he scampered when he heard "several gunshots" after the strikers "continuously hurled stones, Molotov cocktails and sometimes tear gas at the (civil disturbance management personnel of the police)."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales tasked the NBI with investigating and filing charges against those responsible for the death of seven men and the injuries caused by the dispersal to more than 200 people.

"We are evaluating all pieces of evidence. The investigation is continuing because the case is very urgent and very important based on the instruction of the justice secretary," Wycoco told the INQUIRER.

"We are not facing a blank wall. The statements we got are good," he added.

The Luisita management was asked to issue a certification if those who died or were wounded in the Nov. 16 dispersal were workers of the company.

On Thursday, 500 people picketed the DOLE regional office in the City of San Fernando to demand a swift resolution of the labor issues at Luisita.

Capiz board hits co-op for rehab without ECC

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Members of the Capiz provincial board have scored the Capiz Electric Cooperative (Capelco) for allowing an independent power producer to rehabilitate its two dilapidated 2.5-megawatt generators without first securing an environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The provincial board, through board member Enrique Martin, passed a resolution on Nov. 26 inviting Reynaldo Uy and Victorino Sianghio, president and managing director, respectively, of Applied Research Technologies (Artech) Phils. to shed light on the rehabilitation of the Capelco power grids in Barangay Timpas, Panitan, Capiz.

The invitation was believed to be an offshoot of the non-appearance of the Capelco's board of directors when the provincial board asked for their presence during the recent committee hearing regarding the power rate hike of the lone electric

cooperative in Capiz.

Board member Fernando Albano said the provincial board felt insulted by the non-appearance of the board of directors who were all elected by the member-consumers.

Martin said Capelco had entered into a contract with Artech for the latter to rehabilitate the two old power grids under the rehabilitate-operate-transfer (ROT) scheme that would allow Artech to take over the operation of the power grids for 25 years.

Martin added the provincial office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) informed him that before any rehabilitation and operation could take place, an ECC should be issued in compliance with the provision of the Clean Air Act.

Edgar Diaz, Capelco general manager, said he and his subordinates did not refuse the invitation of the provincial board. But instead of appearing at the scheduled committee hearing, the Capelco board of directors merely sent their lawyer.

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Cotabato tribe leaders welcome SC mining rule

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Tribal leaders in the mining area of Tampakan town, South Cotabato hailed the Supreme Court's decision upholding the validity of the 1995 Philippine Mining Act and the transfer of the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) from the defunct Western Mining Company (Philippines) to Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI).

In a statement signed on Friday by the five tribal chieftains of Bong Mal, S'Bangken, Folu Bato, Danlag, and Salnaong communities, the tribal leaders applauded the High Tribunal for reversing its earlier decision.

They said the ruling will not only help boost the mineral industry, but will also pave the way for the economic upliftment of B'laan residents directly affected by the mining operation in Tampakan.

They said the High Court's decision would ensure long-term employment and livelihood prospects for the B'laans who primarily depend on SMI-facilitated programs, particularly the education of their children.

The mining company has been providing development assistance, scholarships, livelihood support and employment to the natives living in the area.

"We thank SMI for continuing its community development efforts in the project area despite the uncertainties of the Tampakan project due to the FTAA case pending in the SC for several years," part of the statement said.

"This is a very encouraging development as far as the local government is concerned. It

will accelerate the Tampakan copper-gold project and will also attract investments in other parts of the country," said Tampakan Mayor Claudius Barroso.

The Supreme Court earlier declared some provisions of the Mining Act as unconstitutional. The previous decision put the SMI FTAA in question. On Thursday, however, the High Court reversed its decision by a 10-4 vote.

In Davao City, business leaders were euphoric over the recent SC decision, saying it would open the country's mining industry to foreign investors and could result in over P730 billion in investments in mining in 16 years, aside from P55 billion in taxes each year.

Stock prices of practically all mining firms listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) shot up immediately after news of the SC ruling came out.

"This can be a very viable solution to the crisis we are facing," said Antonio Santos, chair of the Mindanao Business Council (MBC).

"The recent ruling will attract more foreign investors, provide jobs, develop local industries. Mindanao businessmen cannot help but share their optimism," he added.

Santos cited earlier projections made by the Philippine Mining Conference and the Mindanao Business Council that investments in mining and exploration can easily reach P730 billion by 2020, if the country can develop 25 new mineral discoveries in 15 years.

Aquiles Zonio and Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau



HAPPINESS

The parents of this young evacuee in Rodriguez, Rizal have a lot to be happy about as their child sleeps soundly in an evacuation center protected from cold by cartons of a diaper whose brand does not in any way describe how thousands of typhoon victims now feel.

JOAN BONDOCPDI PHOTO

Sugar industry leaders plan ethanol production

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Sugar Regulatory Administration will start to vigorously push for the diversification of the sugar industry into producing ethanol-based fuel.

SRA Administrator James Ledesma will present a brief on the planned ethanol program of the sugar industry to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Dec. 15, according to Rep. Ignacio Arroyo (Negros Occidental, 5th District).

Arroyo said he, Ledesma and other sugar industry leaders had recently visited Thailand to study its ethanol program.

"The Thai ethanol program is in its infant stage and they have given us information on how to tackle problems involving millers and farmers," Arroyo said.

Arroyo said he also learned that unlike in the Philippines, it has been the Thai government that has been pushing the ethanol program for the sugar industry.

Arroyo said the move here to

diversify to ethanol production was spearheaded by the Philippine Sugar Alliance. In fact, he added, the sugar federations were the ones that sent representatives to the Thailand trip.

Arroyo said the Thais sought to derive ethanol from molasses, sugarcane and cassava and to produce 1 million liters of fuel by 2006.

Aside from Thailand, the Philippine sugar industry could also learn from Australians who have a more mature ethanol program.

Arroyo said even the Ameri-

cans have begun producing ethanol, which, he said, "is the way of the future to be less reliant on gasoline."

The Philippine sugar industry's target is to mix 10 percent ethanol with gasoline, and help stabilize the price of sugarcane, he said.

Arroyo said the Philippine sugar delegation also met with officials of Petron in Bangkok because Petron plans to buy ethanol from Brazil to mix with gasoline even before the Philippine sugar industry is able to produce its own ethanol.

ATTRACTING INVESTORS

Negros gov, Dumaguete mayors put act together

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz and the mayors of Metro Dumaguete have decided to work together in attracting businessmen to invest in the province.

The governor and the Metro mayors were also considering offering incentives like a tax holiday and subsidy on power cost to lure investors.

The decision was reached during last week's meeting with Arnaiz and the chief executives and officials of Metro Dumaguete, which is composed of Dumaguete and the adjoining towns of Sibulan, Valencia and Bacang.

Arnaiz said they had agreed to complement each other and to provide bigger incentives for new investments although the governor said they were focusing on call center operators because it

was labor intensive.

Aside from call centers, he added they would also concentrate on investors in Information Technology (IT) because the province has a very good, if not the best, information infrastructure and competent human resources.

Javier Fortunato, Department of Trade and Industry provincial director, said the province has the best fiber optic technology in the country today, which was laid down by the then Island Communication (Isicom), now Globelines, for its telecommunication services.

He said that Dumaguete, being a "university city," has produced competent graduates, who are considered as the province's number one "product" that is one of the very important resources needed by the IT industry.

Dumaguete Mayor Agustin Perdices said these were the main

reasons why the Epixtar Call Center and the SPI Publishing, an international publishing company, have decided to invest in Metro Dumaguete.

Epixtar will operate in Dumaguete as soon as its building is ready. The SPI is putting up its office in Bacang town, about 6 km north of here.

Arnaiz said the move to work together was imperative so that the province could compete with other cities like Cebu, Iloilo and Davao, which were now aggressively offering attractive incentives to call center operators.

Perdices said Metro Dumaguete mayors are willing to give better incentives compared to the offer made by other places to prospective investors.

"For example in the area of taxation, we can probably grant tax holidays to the investors. Anyway, this incentive is not for-

ever and besides, the employment that can be generated is the most important," Perdices said.

Valencia Mayor Rodolfo Gonzales Jr., for his part, said that aside from tax incentives, his town could provide power subsidy to any investor since Valencia is receiving huge royalties from the Philippine National Oil Company being the host of two geothermal power plants.

Under the Local Government Code, 80 percent of the royalty should be used solely to lower the cost of electricity.

Sibulan Mayor Antonio Renacia said the Metro mayors agreed to help each other and would come up with a unified package that would be attractive to prospective investors.

He said this was necessary in order to provide the much needed job opportunities to the people.

Robberies forcing bus owners to remove route

COTABATO CITY—The management of a bus company that plies major routes from this city to Davao is planning to stop plying its Davao-Cotabato route after a robbery in one of its buses in Sultan Kudarat in Maguindanao.

The management of the Weena Bus Co. said it would be forced to cut its routes because of highway robberies.

"The Weena management is just trying to settle the legal impediments in cutting short its route," said Guinaid Adam, Weena Cotabato manager.

Four suspects armed with cal. 45 pistols robbed about 25 passengers of one Weena bus at 6 p.m. Thursday in Barangay Simuay and took off with P50,000 in cash, mobile phones and personal items.

Also taken by the suspects

was the day's cash collection of the bus conductor, Adam said.

One of the four suspects boarded the bus in Pikit, Cotabato but three others joined him in Midsayap, according to Adam.

As the bus was approaching a police checkpoint in Crossing Simuay, the four declared a robbery. No one was hurt.

Adam said the robberies have alarmed the bus owners.

Robberies usually occur at dusk, forcing the owners last month to adjust its departure time in Davao City to ensure that the units would pass by critical areas still at daytime.

The last bus trip from Davao City leaves at 1 p.m. **Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau**



FOILED SMUGGLING

Subic officials led by Jose Calimlim (left), head of the anti-smuggling Task Force Subic, present a Mercedes Benz, one of several luxury cars that were seized recently during an anti-smuggling operation at the freeport in the government's renewed drive against smuggling.

PHOTO FROM TASK FORCE SUBIC

Mindoro Or. gov dies of lung cancer

CITY OF CALAPAN—After battling with lung cancer and pneumonia, Oriental Mindoro Gov. Bartolome Marasigan Sr., 67, died at around 5:40 a.m. Thursday at the Far Eastern University Hospital in Fairview, Quezon City.

Months before he died, there were talks that he was ill of cancer and that he was brought to America for treatment.

There were also news that he died when he was still alive.

In a press conference last October, the governor through a phone patch, told the media that he had weak lungs and that he was excited to report to office in the province the coming month.

From Nov. 10 to 30, he took a leave from work as advised by his doctors.

He started to work at the Mindoro Development Coordinating Center in

Manila while undergoing check-ups and treatments in the third week of October, said the Provincial Information Office.

"What I only knew was that he had pneumonia. Sometimes, he was okay and he did not really suffer," said his spokesperson King Marasigan.

If there are other pieces of information on the governor's disease, it could have been a family matter, he added.

He also visited the Metropolitan Hospital in Binondo, Manila for check-ups. His son Dr. Murphy Marasigan was one of his doctors.

On Nov. 23, he was in a program called "Oplan Sagip Bayan, Sagip Lalawigan" on TVNET, a cable station here, through a footage expressing concern for the victims of Typhoon "Unding."

According to his spokesperson,

Governor Marasigan is the "Father of PPsKa" (Programang Pang-edukasyon sa Kalibliban).

He has visited 426 barangays under his program called Kapitolyo sa Barangay.

Before he became governor, he was vice governor for three years, provincial administrator for 14 and provincial agriculturist for a period of time.

He completed a course of Agriculture at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna and has a master's degree on it in the United States.

He is survived by wife Remedios and five children.

His remains lie at the Arlington funeral parlor on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. **Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**



Question of the Week

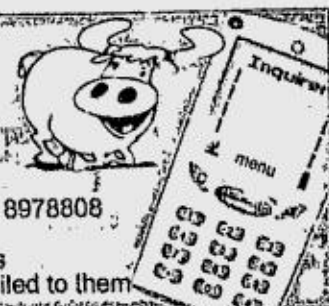
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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

A case of sweet success in land reform

By Jo M. Clemente
Victorias City, Negros Occidental

TO THIS day, residents of Barangay 12, in the heart of the Negros sugarlandia, still call their former landlord "señorito," their foreman "encargado," and their early morning assembly "arima."

These are terms reminiscent of a colonial past and feudal relationship between the landed few and their mass of workers in the sugar fields.

And yet, even as Negros Occidental created in the public mind an economic landscape where the gap between sugar barons and their *sacadas* (seasonal workers) was just too immense to bridge, it is also there where, surprisingly, a good model for agrarian reform in a sugar estate could be found—and, yes, where land, not stocks, is actually distributed to the farm workers.

Spouses Felixberto and Estela Pelayo earned P91,000 in combined dividends from last year's crop. They used part of the amount to build a new house.

Narciso dela Cruz earned P110,000. With the money, he bought four carabaos.

Another pair, Paquito and Rosal Bacay, had combined earnings of P95,000. They also built a house and spared some money for the school requirements of their children.

The Pelayos, Bacays and Dela Cruz belong to the VM Remedios Cooperative. Together with 65 other members, they agreed to continue planting sugarcane in the land conveyed to them as beneficiaries of agrarian reform.

All their lives, the sugar farm workers subsisted on daily wage. But the dividends they earned at the end of last year's crop season was a windfall—enough to build simple concrete homes to replace their shanties.

Landlord-turned-mentor

According to Brando Flores, president of the cooperative, the idea of forming the group was inspired by the hacienda owner, "Señorito" Manny Lacson.

"Even if we had the land, we did not have the money to plant and care for sugarcane. We went to Mr. Lacson and asked his help," Flores said.

Lacson's counteroffer and challenge was for them to set up a cooperative and collectively make the farm productive. He promised to help them while they were still building up capital and acquiring skills in managing both their organization and their farm, said Rodolfo Solinap, the co-op's first president.

In 2001, the cooperative was formed through the help of Lacson. The city government of Victorias conducted training sessions and helped formalize the group. The members took on the challenge and painstakingly accumulated equity.

Jocelyn Delgado, 38, is a vivid example. Like the rest of the beneficiaries, she still works at the farm—weeding, planting, spraying pesticides and doing other tasks. She earns an average daily pay of P200, but unlike before, it is no longer Lacson's family that pays her but her own cooperative.

It took her a while to save P50 for her membership fee and P500 for the initial capital. When she gets more than P200 a day, she sets aside P50 to build up her capital at the co-op.

During the first year, Delgado's P500 earned P3,000 in dividends. Last year, her contribution went up to P1,500 and her year-end earnings reached P34,000—already a windfall by their standards.

Delgado said she bought a carabao for P18,000 and a cart for P5,000.

In the same manner, the Pelayos, Bacays and Dela Cruz built their capital at the cooperative. The Pelayos, for instance, have a combined contribution of P4,800 to the cooperative that earned for them P91,000.

According to Adelfa Lucas, the co-op's secretary, the beneficiary-workers enjoy other benefits, such as 13th-month pay, which is computed based on the number of days worked in the farms for a cropping year. They also have amelioration pay, Social Security System (SSS) membership, and bonus from the sugar central.

Voluntary surrender

Nine haciendas comprise Barangay 12, a chunk of which belongs to Lacson and his family. The Lacson sugar estate is managed by their firm, Sta. Clara Enterprises Inc., of which Lacson is president.

The landowner said his family voluntarily surrendered the farms to agrarian reform but wanted them to remain productive. So that

when the beneficiaries asked for financial support, he made the counteroffer.

"They are now planters themselves and not plain farm workers, and the transaction is business to business. It's a win-win solution," Lacson said. "We get paid by Landbank for the property and the proceeds we lend to the beneficiaries through their cooperative at soft interest and we both earn in the end."

Agrarian reform is more than distributing the land, he said. The beneficiaries need both the materials and skills support to maintain the productivity of the land and they should also develop an entrepreneurial attitude.

"The VM Remedios Coop is proof that it can be done," he said.

Lacson, 74, belongs to one of Negros' rich and famous families, but he brushes aside this status. His only claim to "fame," he said, was when he signed a complaint against the late Roberto S. Benedicto and the National Sugar Trading (Nasutra) for the alleged undervaluation of their sugar exports.

Win-win formula

Lacson's win-win formula is best seen from the cooperative's financial statement.

For crop year 2002-03, members of the

cooperative planted sugarcane in 130 hectares of land. They were able to generate a gross income of P9.4 million—P7.9 million from sugar sales, P788,686 from molasses, P263,930 from milling incentives, and P492,957 from trucking allowances given by the milling company.

Their cost of production was P4.5 million which they borrowed from Lacson's company. Their net income was P4.9 million.

The P4.5 million advanced by Sta. Clara to cover cost of production earned an interest of P326,225 and a management fee equal to 10 percent of

the net income.

The cooperative was also able to complete payment for two tractors and implements, as well as office equipment.

For the last cropping year, Flores said the co-op retained 40 percent of its earnings for emergency and educational funds, and for general administrative expenses. It is also starting to allocate money for land amortization, which they will pay to the Landbank.

Sixty percent of the earnings, Flores said, were redistributed to the members in dividends proportionate to their capital shares.

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THE COOPERATIVE and its members pose before the tractors they bought in installments and have fully paid for. JO CLEMENTE

3 DENR execs axed over illegal logging

From page A1

the mountain range. He had said that loggers were now cutting smaller and younger trees because they could no longer find mature ones.

Defensor said in a press conference that he had formed an eight-member panel to investigate illegal logging in the three provinces, where in the aftermath of Tropical Depression "Winnie," rivers and hillsides were strewn with what many believed to be "hot" logs.

He blamed illegal loggers and slash-and-burn farmers for the forest denudation in the three provinces.

Senate probe

At the Senate, lawmakers prepared for a full-blown investigation.

In separate resolutions to be filed when the session resumes on Monday, Senators Richard Gordon, Manuel Villar Jr., Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Pia Cayetano, Jamby Madrigal and Francis Pangilinan sought authorization from the chamber to look into the root cause of the deadly landslides and floods in Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Quezon.

The senators admitted in separate interviews that the inquiry could be controversial because it would implicate wealthy families, including a number of lawmakers.

But Villar said it was high time Congress exercised its oversight function on the implementation of the environmental measures it had enacted over the years.

"What can we do?" he said. "Somebody should take the blame. We can't just close our eyes and say that the death and destruction left by the typhoons were caused by the wrath of nature."

Villar also said the influential people behind illegal logging in the north should be "exposed."

'No violation'

Asked whether licensed timber cutters or logging concessionaires in the three provinces should also be held liable, Defensor said his department had seen "no violation" committed by these "legal" loggers that could be linked to the ongoing tragedy.

According to the DENR, 216,089 hectares of forest land in Quezon and Aurora are under logging concessions authorized by Timber License Agreements (TLAs), Industrial Tree Plantation Lease Agreements (Itplas), Industrial Forest Management Agreements (Ifmas) and Socialized Industrialized Forest Management Agreements (Sifmas).

A total of 106,254 hectares are covered by TLAs issued to three logging firms in Aurora and Quezon.

In Aurora, a total of 92,991 hectares are covered by Ifmas, and 45 hectares, by Sifmas. In Quezon, 13,527 hectares are covered by Ifmas, and 3,272 hectares, by Itplas.

"Their operations are monitored. They are allowed to cut [trees] but are also required to plant," Defensor said, explaining in a nutshell the principle behind the concessions.

He said that concessionaires were also required to "protect" their turf from illegal log-



A FAMILIAR sight wherever the stormy weather did its worse: A profusion of logs washed down from higher ground and people who help themselves to as many as they can carry. This one's in South Poblacion Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, along the Danglan River.

REM ZAMORA

gers, and that the Philippines' shrinking forest cover would actually be "worse" without the concessionaires.

"The logs that we saw after the landslides did not come from the concession areas," he said.

But Defensor said the investigation he had ordered would also check whether these concessionaires had encroached on areas that the DENR had declared as forest reserves covered by a logging ban.

Aurora, for example, has protected areas lying in between logging concession areas, he said, pointing to a color-coded map of the province.

Both raping forests

President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Armed Forces have blamed the communist New People's Army for the deforestation that caused the landslides.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, chief of the AFP Southern Luzon Command, had said the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA guerrillas operating in the Sierra Madre were receiving from illegal loggers at least P2 per board foot of timber.

But CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal scoffed at the accusation.

"Who gave the permission to big-time loggers to cut trees covering thousands of hectares? It's the government, not the NPA," Rosal said in a phone interview.

"Legal and illegal loggers are one.

They are both raping the forests," he added.

Rosal pointed out that big-time concessionaires were operating for corporate "megaprofit" while illegal or "carabao" loggers were solely motivated by "survival."

"[Blaming the NPA] for the floods and landslides because of illegal logging is a big stupidity," he said.

Rosal admitted that the NPA had been imposing "revolutionary taxes" on big-time concessionaires: "Of course, because they operate within our territorial jurisdiction."

He denied that the NPA had been collecting a percentage from illegal loggers, who he said, were "mostly impoverished farmers."

He defended the logging activities of the farmers, saying what they cut was "miniscule" compared to that of commercial loggers.

"Besides, they cut logs because there is always a ready buyer—the legal loggers," he said.

Bishop Labayan

Rosal stressed that even before the formation of the NPA in 1969, "logging—whether legal and illegal—has been the practice in all Philippine forests, not only in the Sierra Madre."

"There is historical record of it," he said, and named the Interwood and Pristine firms in the towns of Mauban and General Nakar as "only some of the big-time logging companies that the

people of Northern Quezon led by Bishop [Julio Xavier] Labayan were opposing in the past."

"The remnants of Pristine's deforestation of the Sierra Madre are still visible in Barangay Lagmak, where some of their machines still lie rusting," Rosal said.

Regarded as the leading activist among the religious during martial law, Labayan led the fight against continuous logging in the Sierra Madre, which runs across his diocese.

Labayan's special closeness to the Agta, the indigenous people who have settled on the mountain range, put him at the forefront of their struggle against commercial loggers in their ancestral land.

Fr. Pete Montallana, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Diocese of Infanta and director of the Tribal Center for Development, said the Ifma, like other government reforestation programs, was just another form of "legalized logging."

"This kind of deceitful program is what the government, through the DENR, has been implementing in the Sierra Madre. What we all have to do is not to totally ravage but to protect what is left of the forests for the sake of the next generation," he said.

Total or selective?

Villar said he was supportive of the total log ban proposed by Pimentel and Madrigal two days ago "to simplify

things" in view of the DENR's supposedly proven laxness in protecting the forests through the existing selective log ban.

But Cayetano, in an interview over ANC News Channel, said a total log ban should be studied carefully so that the poor families subsisting on small logging operations would be provided an alternative livelihood.

Pimentel and Madrigal assailed President Arroyo and the DENR for canceling only the logging permits of the timber companies operating in the typhoon-ravaged areas. They said all commercial logging in Luzon should be banned.

"How many more will die due to the grave abuse of our environment?" Madrigal said. She said Congress should make illegal logging a heinous crime.

Highest priority

Pimentel challenged the President and the leaders of Congress to give the highest priority to the approval of the long-standing bill imposing a 25-year ban on commercial logging.

Under Senate Bill 1150 authored by Pimentel, which provides for a log ban, industrial tree plantations will be exempted in order to meet the requirements of the paper, construction and furniture industries.

"Unless the government implements a total log ban, we will continue to lose more of our already thinning forests. And the horrible tragedies in Aurora-Quezon this year and Ormoc in 1991 due to floods and landslides are bound to be repeated," he said.

The missing, and survivors' separation, reunion

From page A1

ter's house safe and sound where they were surprised to meet Herbert, 20, their youngest, who arrived from Manila for this impromptu reunion.

At about 3 p.m. that same day, Romeo felt pains in his stomach which prompted Alicia and Mary Anne to go to nearby Infanta to buy some medicine.

They arrived in Infanta at 4 p.m., bought the medicine and were on a jeep back to Maragondon at 5 p.m. together with 12 other passengers. There were several cars, vans and jeeps on the road behind them. It had also started to rain.

"When we reached Barangay Koloron, Real, there was a downpour. We saw this house swept away by rushing water and mud. One by one, the cars, vans and jeeps which were behind us, were also washed away," Mary Anne told the INQUIRER.

"Our jeepney driver tried to outspeed the rushing mud waters. After a few minutes, we encountered a landslide. The road was blocked, it was still raining and it got very, very dark. We had no choice but to spend the night inside the jeep," Mary Anne narrated.

Sleepless in Maragondon

In Maragondon, Romeo and Herbert started to worry when Alicia and Mary Anne failed to return by nightfall. They became alarmed when they heard about 100 people who, during the heavy downpour, took refuge in a building which collapsed, killing everybody.

Romeo didn't get much sleep that night. At dawn the following day, he and Herbert started walking toward Infanta despite the pain from his surgical wound.

"I just wanted to see Alicia and my daughter Mary Anne. I was afraid something had happened to my loved ones. I wanted to save them. I wanted to see them—dead or alive," Romeo said.

At 5 a.m., Tuesday, Alicia, Mary Anne and the other passengers decided to leave the jeep and started walking toward Maragondon.

Thirsty, hungry

Wet, thirsty and hungry, they hiked the slippery roads covered with mud and rocks.

Alicia, who had a poor heart and whose body was now covered with wounds and bruises, found herself stuck neck-deep in mud. She thought it was the end.

Mary Anne tried to pull her out of the mud which must have been quicksand.

"I told mother to be strong. I grasped her hand but I was too weak to pull her out. A male fellow passenger helped pull her out of the mud," Mary Anne said.

Romeo had already walked five hours on roads covered by mud. His feet were bruised, his left arm was sprained, his stomach wound hurt, but he was determined to go on.

Romeo and Herbert were not the only ones searching for their loved ones. There were other families walking with them and they kept each other company.

Tears of joy

When father and son reached Barangay Tanauan, Romeo's tears of pain turned into tears of joy. He saw his wife and daughter covered with mud, weak and hardly able to walk, but very much alive.

A difficult decision had to be made: Should they go to Infanta or Maragondon?

After some discussion, the reunited family finally agreed to head for Maragondon, which was another seven hours on foot.

At about 7 p.m., the Bantucan family arrived in Maragondon—soaked to the bones, covered with mud, but happy to be home.

Crossing rivers

Adela Azaula, 52, an employee of the

Department of Agrarian Reform-Quezon, had her own river to cross.

Azaula and her daughter arrived at the CRS-office in Lucena on Thursday pleading to military officials that they be allowed to hitch a ride with any vehicle just to reach the devastated area. She said her 88-year-old mother Leonarda, lived with her sister in Barangay Comon, Infanta, Quezon.

"I'm ready to hike roads and cross rivers just to see my family alive," Azaula said.

Three of her other siblings live in Barangay Magsikap, General Nakar. Both areas suffered heavy casualties during the height of Typhoon "Winnie" that caused flash floods and landslides in Infanta, Real and General Nakar.

When soldiers told her that the stretch of 35-km roads from the closest passable road leading to Infanta were blocked by several landslides, she said waiting was more painful than hiking in the rain and muddy trails.

"Bale wala ang layo. Kaya itong palapitin ng kagustuhang makita ang mahal sa buhay (I don't care if it's far. I want to see my loved ones)," she said.

No ring, no answer

Azaula had brought with her noodles, canned goods and rice. "I know they have nothing to eat. My mother is old and sickly. I can't bear the thought of her suffering in her old age," she said, pleading for a place in the military truck.

She kept punching the redial button on her cell phone, hoping it would ring and praying that someone would answer.

Wendel Solieste, 32, left his wife and two children in their house in Barangay Magsikap in General Nakar. He, too, kept pressing the keypad on his mobile phone, but it wouldn't even ring.

Col. Pablo Amisola, chief of the AFP Southern Luzon Command-Civil Military Office, said civilians were welcome to ride in the military vehicles "only if there's space. The priority is still the

transport of relief goods," he said.

Azaula, her daughter and Solieste said they would head to Laguna and try to get to Famy from there.

Clinging to hopes

In Rodriguez, Rizal, the kin of the missing cling to what little hope there is, praying they will still see them alive. Those who lost loved ones bear their sorrow with fortitude.

"I don't want to believe they are dead," said Renante Arcillas, 27, as he sat at the wake for his son, Reymund, 7, and relatives Crisencia Mendiola and Lydia Garcia at the gymnasium in Rodriguez.

Renante and his daughter Stephenie, 6, were the fortunate ones.

Nine of their relatives remain among the missing—Renante's wife, three other children and six relatives who all vanished in the flood that swept through the Rizal town in the wake of Tropical Depression "Winnie" on the night of Nov. 30.

"I'm 100 percent sure I will still see them alive," said Renante.

Not as optimistic

Municipal officials are not as optimistic, however. According to a rescue worker, it was unlikely that any of the missing could have survived the flood.

If anyone had survived, he or she would have surfaced by now, said the rescue worker who declined to be named.

"It's been three days and it is very unlikely that we could still fish out anyone from the river alive," he said yesterday.

It has been four days since floodwaters swept entire villages in Rodriguez town, obliterating houses and wrecking those that remained.

Of the 400 houses that went underwater, some 300 had been washed away. At press time, local officials said at least 13 townspeople remained unaccounted for.

"When our house collapsed, my wife Melinda and I were separated," recalled Renante, who had daughter Stephenie with him.

The other children—Rose Ann, 3, Rosemarie, 1, and Reymund, 7, were with his wife.

Unverified info

As he was being carried off by the rushing floodwaters, Renante was able to hold on to a house in the Muslim area of the town.

"I had my daughter, but I lost the others," he said.

He has heard from neighbors that his wife was lying in a hospital in Pasig but the information could not be verified. No one from the family has seen Melinda personally.

"I have not seen her yet, but I believe she is alive," said Renante.

Waiting hardest part

The hardest part is the waiting, he said.

Aside from Melinda, Rose Ann and Rosemarie, the following are the relatives of Renante who are still missing: Lily Mancera, Rustom Mancera, Bernadine Romano, Jen-Jen Mancera, Leslie Mancera and Felipe Lopez.

Another relative, J.R. Mancera, 14, was rescued by a resident in Marikina on Monday night and has rejoined his family.

Richard Romano, a son of Crisencia Mendiola, has accepted the grim fact that his relatives might be lost forever.

"If they are dead, [our hope is that] we can at least recover their bodies so we can give them a proper burial," he said.

At least 100 families, whose houses were carried off by the raging river, are now temporarily housed at the Rodriguez gymnasium, just across the road from the town hall.

Town officials hope they can be relocated to the Erap City resettlement site in Barangay San Jose in the next few days.

EZZ

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Editor Ester G. Dipsupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

METRO

Mart watch: Veggie, fish prices hiked

REDUCED vegetable stocks from northern Luzon farms and a dwindling supply of fish as a result of Typhoons "Winnie" and "Yoyong" that lashed most parts of Luzon have resulted in a price increase of these commodities in most Metro Manila wet markets. Other outlets, however, kept their old prices—so far.

"Most of our suppliers failed to deliver our orders because of flooded roads in Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan," said Narsing Evangelista, a vegetable vendor at the Nepa Q Mart in Cubao, Quezon City. Figures gathered by

the INQUIRER showed that the prices of tomato, onions, garlic, cabbage and eggplant at Nepa Q increased by P2 to P10 per kilo.

Tomatoes, which used to sell for P18 per kilo, now costs P25; and onions at P32 from P28 per kilo last week. Garlic now costs P2 more, or P30, from last week's P28. From P20, cabbage now costs P23 per kilo, and eggplants which previously cost P25 are now sold at P35 per kilo. Prices of other vegetables like string beans, Baguio beans, pechay, calamansi, kangkong and camote tops increased by

50 to 80 percent.

While chicken, beef, and pork remained stable, fish vendors increased their prices. From last week's P60 per kilo, galunggong, tulingan and tilapia now cost from P70 to P80 a kilo. The prices of prime commodities like oil, processed canned pork and beef, instant noodles, evaporated milk, coffee, sugar and milk, however, remain unchanged.

Prices have remained stable in Marikina, but Mayor Marides Fernando said the cost of produce from affected areas are expected to increase in the next days.

Galunggong is priced at P100 to P120 a kilo, but tilapia from Laguna remains at P80 per kilo.

At Manila's Quinta market, however, except for fish, prices of vegetables remained the same. Vendors said Baguio City and its neighboring provinces, where most of Manila's vegetables are sourced, were spared from the devastation that other provinces in Bicol, Central and Southern Luzon experienced. "Price increases only happen when there are landslides in Baguio," said Yolanda Bartolo.

Prices of fish, meanwhile, in-

creased by P10 per kilo, as wholesale rates in Malabon and Navotas, Metro Manila's main fish markets, were raised by as much. Galunggong was pegged at P90 per kilo yesterday from P80 on Thursday. Raised by P10 per kilo as well were prices of pla-pla, at P70; tulingan, P80. The cost of bangus (milkfish), ranged from P70 to P100, depending on the size.

"Every December, prices of pork and beef really rise with the approach of Christmas," said pork vendor Merlita Mogado, a comment echoed by vendors at Bal-

intawak market in Quezon City.

The price of calamansi, however, soared from P35 to P80 at Arangan market in Binondo because it is sourced from Batangas province, which was battered by the typhoons. On the other hand, the prices of other vegetables remained stable.

Because the sun had not shone in the last three days, a kilo of dried fish now costs P120 when it used to cost P90 at Balintawak market. Tina G. Santos, Tarra V. Quismundo, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Leila B. Salaverria, Luige A. del Puerto.

Typhoon victims on way home from help centers No visits to prisoners until wallet turns up

By Luige del Puerto

THE WORST is over, for now.

Life for Metro Manilans began to go back to normal yesterday, as rains and strong winds slowly gave way to clear skies.

No casualties were recorded in Rodriguez, the town worst hit in Rizal province after Typhoon Winnie. Flooding in Eastern Metro Manila had also been minimal.

Still, hundreds of families sought shelter in evacuation centers on Thursday night just to be sure. In Marikina City, some 800 families spent the night in schools and refugee centers. About 700 families from Rodriguez also left their homes, hounded by the threat of a "super" typhoon.

But yesterday, local officials and residents heaved a huge sigh of relief as the sun began to shine. "We have no casualties," declared Marikina Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando.

At dawn Tuesday, the Marikina River rose to 19.3 meters, swamping hundreds of houses in three barangays in the city. Scores of stalls lined up along the Riverpark were swept away.

In Dona Petra and Tumana District, the water's reached the ceilings of homes, forcing residents to seek higher grounds.

A total of 3,693 persons and 753 families were evacuated to five centers in Marikina.

But yesterday, many of them were on their way home.

Children and the old, men and women carrying roosters, bundles of clothes, water, packed lunches and boxes left for homes in Camacho Settlement, Brgy. Nangka, Marikina City.

"Our homes are muddy and our clothes are wet. We have some major cleaning to do," said 42-year-old Shirley Rosas.

Upstream in Rodriguez, the flood destroyed at least 300 houses in five barangays. Hundreds of people spent many hours soaked in the raging waters. Nine people were drowned and killed, and at least 13 others remained missing.

Yesterday, Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Guerro said some residents had already gone back to their homes, but added that those living along the riverbanks would be relocated to safer grounds.

Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali "Boyot" Gonzales also said the storm did not destroy anything substantial in the city. In Pasig City, however, an unidentified man dressed in a white shirt and blue shorts was found in the floodway system yesterday morning by residents of Brgy. Maybunga.

Some 619 families from the low-lying areas of Baseco Compound in Port Area, and Parola Compound, Happpyland, and Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Manila who were evacuated on Thursday were allowed to return to their

homes as the weather improved.

The 264 families from Tondo, and 355 more from Baseco Compound, had spent a night in the Del Pan Sports Complex, and elementary schools in Tondo and Baseco, as the city government moved them away from harm's way as "Yoyong" passed through Luzon last night. Families brought to evacuation centers in Malabon City and Navotas the other night had also gone back to their houses yesterday morning.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said they had to clear the Tullahan River in Valenzuela City and Javier Bridge in the Manggahan Floodway to prevent overflowing.

Close to 12,000 persons were evacuated in Metro Manila during the height of Typhoon "Yoyong" according to police and local government reports. With Tarra V. Quismundo, Edson C. Tandoc, Jr., Ruth L. Navarra, Margaux C. Ortiz, Nancy C. Carvajal

WILL IT be a blue Christmas for inmates at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa all because a congressman lost his wallet while visiting prisoners the other day?

According to a source, visits to the compound were indefinitely suspended until the wallet of House Minority leader Francis Escudero is found.

NBP officials were reportedly questioning an inmate tagged by three other prisoners as the one who could have stolen Escudero's wallet. The congressman was with 10 other colleagues to meet the prisoners in

a friendly dialogue.

Escudero said the incident was "unfortunate," but added he didn't want to make a big fuss about it. "It won't stop me from returning to Bilibid to fulfill our promises," he said.

Relatives of the inmates yesterday appealed to NBP officials to reconsider its suspension order.

"The order to indefinitely suspend visits is inhumane," a wife of an inmate lamented. "We want to be with our loved ones especially during Christmas." Nancy C. Carvajal, Margaux C. Ortiz and Christian V. Esguerra

Criminal inaction and neglect

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



TEXT messages have been flying thick and fast about the alleged involvement of Sen. Edgardo Angara and his kin in illegal logging in Aurora. Aurora is one of the provinces most devastated by flash floods, resulting in balding mountains. The indiscriminate cutting down of trees in the mountains reportedly brought about this condition.

Angara's sister, Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, is governor of Aurora.

It's hard to believe the Angaras would get involved in illegal logging. They are not stupid enough to commit such a crime.

But their inaction or inability to stop illegal loggers in Aurora makes them culpable. In this case, they're just as guilty as the illegal loggers.

The biggest tactical mistake the New People's Army (NPA) made was in ambushing soldiers who were on a mercy mission in San Rafael, Bulacan.

Those soldiers were rescuing residents from rampaging floodwaters, and yet they were mercilessly killed.

The poor people that the NPAs claim to help will turn against them. This will result in the rebels losing mass support.

To serve and protect, that's the motto of the Philippine National Police.

The police should always be on hand not only to protect lives and property, but also to prevent violence arising from disputes between two contending parties.

Most policemen stress the protection part of their job, but miss out on the service aspect. The "serve" and "protect" aspects always go together. A friend of mine, Ric Lim, decries the inaction on his complaint by Supt. Billy Beltran, chief of police of Valenzuela City.

Lim said he sought Beltran's help when some security guards took over the warehouses of his client, Western Fabrics Inc. and Diamond Knitting Corp., without a court order.

A tug-of-war between two brothers was reportedly taking place over the possession of the warehouses. But there was no court litigation.

He went to Valenzuela City police chief, Lim said, because he wanted the police to ask the security guards what authority they had to take over the facilities.

Lim said Beltran told him he was in no position to determine the validity of the ownership claim of his (Lim's) client.

According to Lim, his client was planning to hire security guards from another agency and rush to the two warehouses. There would have been a shootout between two groups of security guards, he said. So, he advised his client against it.

"But what if I didn't stop my client from retaking the property through violent means, would the police not have intervened?" Lim asked.

Police should place themselves in the middle of a quarrel between two parties to prevent violence.

But in the case of Beltran, he failed to do the job of arbitrating a dispute. Perhaps he was paid by the other side, Lim commented.

Canadian Provincial Nominee & Immigration Services Form No: 001

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Business Class

☐ Family Class/Sponsorship
☐ Student
☐ Skilled Worker

☐ Investor
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II- PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full name (as shown in the passport/travel document)

Title (Mr/Ms/Mrs) (Family Name) (Given Name) (Middle Name)

2. Date of Birth (day/month/year) / Place of Birth Country of Citizenship

III- EDUCATION

a. Highest Level of completed education:

☐ Secondary /High School
☐ Vocational/Trade/Apprenticeship
☐ College

☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ Master's degree/PhD
☐ Others (specify)

b. Current Occupation How long? (years) (months)

IV- Language proficiency / Principal Applicant: Spouse:

Language	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Language	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair
English					English				
French					French				
Others (Specify)					Others (Specify)				

V-Marital Status

☐ Married
☐ Single
☐ Divorced/Separated

☐ Widow/widower
☐ Common-Law

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a. Full name (as shown in the passport/travel document)

(Family Name) (Given Name) (Middle Name)

b. Date of Birth (day/month/year) / Place of Birth Country of Citizenship

c. Children's Detail (if any) Please use extra sheet if necessary

Name	Date of Birth / Place of Birth

VII-DO YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES IN CANADA?

☐ Yes
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VIII-WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO LIVE IN CANADA

City / Province

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IX-CONTACT DETAILS

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Be man enough, Pacquiao promoter chides Barrera



MURAD: We are not going to take an interim fight against Larios.

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

THE MANNY Pacquiao camp has refused take no for an answer and yesterday described as an insult the offer of Golden Boy Promotions for the Filipino world boxing celebrity to first fight WBC super bantamweight champion Oscar Larios before he could face Marco Antonio Barrera in a rematch, possibly in September.

International promoter Murad Muhammad, who arrived from Los Angeles on a Philippine Airlines flight early yesterday, insisted Barrera was clearly running scared.

"Barrera should be man enough," Murad stressed. "We are not going to take an interim fight against Larios, that's for sure."

He again asked why Barrera has continued to offer excuses for his devastating 11th round battering at the hands of Pacquiao in San Antonio, Texas on Nov. 15 last year while at the same time not calling out Pacquiao's name even after his big win over Erik Morales.

Murad confirmed that "the phone call from Richard Schaeffer (president of Golden Boy Promotions) told me they are not interested in fighting Pacquiao."

The well-known international promoter announced "there is a little fight going on between Golden Boy and Bob Arum of Top Rank."

HBO: Stay out of it

"We don't want to get in between that," he said. "HBO had advised me to stay out of it."

Murad said working on a deal with Golden Boy Promotions would surely create trouble.

"We made a deal with HBO and we'll live up to it," Murad said. "If you pull out of fights of HBO without their blessings you've ruined your career for the rest of your life."

Pacquiao meets Thailand's Fahsan 3K Battery on Dec. 11 in a match designed as tune-up for the RP boxing hero's scheduled February rematch with dual world champion Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's famous American trainer, had suggested his fighter could skip Marquez and bang it with Barrera outright in February.

WHAT'S INSIDE



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Congress to probe RP cage debacle in Taipei Written

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CONGRESS will try to look into the recent basketball debacle suffered by the Philippines in the recent Fiba-Asia Stankovic Cup in Taipei.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday said he would push for an inquiry into the cage meet where the Philippines, represented by third-rate college league players, finished dead-last.

He will also file a resolution asking all national teams to secure approval from the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission first before embarking on a foreign tournament carrying the country's colors.

The move however encountered opposition even before it could take off. Newly appointed Basketball Association of the Philippines special adviser Go Teng Kok said such resolution would run against the

autonomy of the national sports associations.

Go, the athletics and chess association chief, added that the resolution must be careful not to violate the rights of the NSAs, especially since Puentevella himself is president of the weightlifting association.

"We welcome any investigation which I'm sure is well-meaning, but a resolution asking for the approval of the POC and the

PSC might be violating the NSAs rights," said Go. "How would he feel if the congress investigates weightlifting?"

Puentevella said the aim of the resolution and the inquiry is to avoid the "humiliation the country" suffered during the Taipei meet where the RP Team, bannered by players from the Philippine College of Criminology, got beaten by large, shameful margins. The meet was even shown

CONGRESS/A30

exams for all coaching candidates

By June Navarro

BELIEVING the success of the national team lies on the basketball philosophy of its coaching staff, the Philippine Basketball Association has begun the selection process by subjecting the aspiring coaches to a written examination.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has furnished Coca-Cola's Chot Reyes, Yeng Guiao of Red Bull, Joel Banal (Talk N Text) and Tim Cone (Alaska) questionnaires to provide the league a perspective on how they will run the RP national team.

"Though everybody has advantages and disadvantages, we want to know their exact plans for the national team. It is through these questionnaires and the interview that the PBA will decide on whom to appoint," said Eala.

Reyes, the first one to submit his piece, was supposed to get the first crack in the interview along with Guiao but Eala called it off and reset the meeting on Tuesday due to inclement weather.

Eala said the questions zeroed in on the aspirants' coaching philosophy with emphasis on their short, medium and long-term goals for the national squad.

Criteria for selection of players

The coaches were also asked how to go about the criteria on the selection process of the players and coaching staff, apart from the training schedule and the budget involved for team operations.

Also scrutinized was the capability of the aspirants' mother ballclubs to support the needs of the national squad and their view on how to reconcile their status as a PBA bench tactician and an RP head coach.

Contrary to reports that Reyes is gaining ahead of the others, Eala said the appointment of the national coach is still a wide open race.

Banal steered the Ateneo Blue Eagles to a Philippine Basketball League title and the 2002 UAAP varsity crown while Reyes also called the shots for the Blue Eagles in the early 90s, aside from coaching several PBL teams during the same era.

Banal started to etch his name in the amateur scene when he navigated the Mapua Cardinals to back-to-back NCAA titles (1990-1991).

Guiao was a common fixture in the PBA, beginning his career at about the same time Reyes entered bigtime coaching.

Among the hopefuls, only Cone got a head coaching stint for the national team. Cone steered a team boosted by PBA stars to a bronze-medal finish in the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok.

Cardona shows way in PBL Open stats

By Jasmine W. Payo

DESPITE missing one game, ICTSI-La Salle's Mac Cardona remained on top in the statistical race midway in the elimination round of the PBL Open Championship.

Cardona, known for his quirky court temperament, topped the league in scoring at 22.8 points per game. He also averaged 4.9 rebounds and finished 10th in assists at 2.9 apg.

The 6-foot-1 guard led the league's efficiency rating despite sitting out a one-game suspension for incurring three un-

sportsmanlike fouls in the first round.

Jon Dan Salvador of Montaña Pawnshop ranked second overall. The veteran center again stood behind Cardona in scoring at 14.4 ppg but placed third in rebounding at 9.3 rpg.

Arwind Santos of Magnolia-FEU also remained in close contention. The reigning MVP dominated the rebounding department at 9.8 rpg and was 10th in scoring at 10.1 ppg.

Interestingly, three rookie big men round out the league's top five. Mark Andaya, the 6-foot-7 center of Toyota Otis-Letran, took fourth with 9 ppg, 7 rpg and a second-best 2.5 blocks per game.

Tied at fifth are Welcoat's Anthony

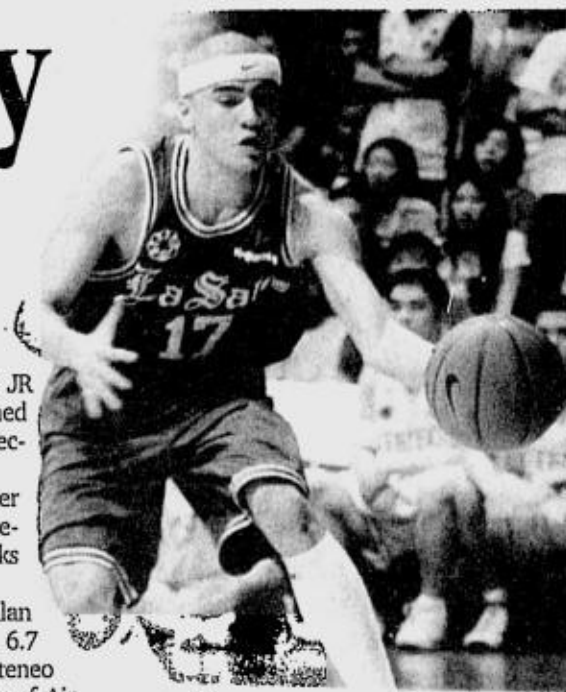
Washington and Granny Goose's JR

Quiñahan. Washington finished third in scoring at 13.9 ppg and second in rebounding at 9.4 rpg.

Quiñahan, a hefty 6-foot-6 center from Cebu, averaged 8.1 points, 7 rebounds and led the league in blocks at 2.8 bpg.

Completing the top ten are Allan Gamboa of Welcoat (6.5 ppg, 6.7 rpg), Gabby Espinas of AMP-Ateneo (5.9 ppg, 8.3 rpg), Mike Holper of Air Philippines (8.8 ppg, 6 rpg) and Cesar Catli of Magnolia-FEU (11 ppg, 4.5 rpg).

Other league leaders are Montaña's Froilan Baguion in assists at 4.3 apg and AMP's LA Tenorio in steals at 1.9 spg.



CARDONA lives up to his billing.

Roach corrective boxing clinic at RMSC

ARE champion boxers born or made?

The world's best boxing trainer for 2003 Freddie Roach answers this and offers solutions to crippling problems in Philippine boxing during a two-day clinic-demonstration on Dec. 8-9 at the Amateur Boxing Association (Abap) Gym inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Vito Cruz, Manila.

Roach agreed to hold the clinic upon the request of lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, who organized the event, and the sponsoring Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Main feature of the two-day, 8 am-12 noon event is a Roach lecture on the rudiments of training, to be highlighted by a question-answer portion tackling the problems to be raised by trainers and other boxing figures from all over the country.

Day 2 will center on a demonstration on



ROACH (left) with Pacquiao.

techniques and solutions taken on Day 1.

Roach, the revered boxing mentor mainly responsible for the emergence of Manny Pacquiao as one of the world's hottest boxing celebrities, readily accepted the challenge upon the invitation of Salud, the highly respected founding secretary-

general of the World Boxing Council, whose fighter Z Gorres is also being molded by the American boxing genius.

With its proximity to Pacquiao's fight against Fahsan 3K Battery, the Roach clinic also comes as a side feature, a fitting prelude to the Yanig sa Taguig presentation at The Fort in Taguig on Dec. 11.

Among those who have confirmed participation were the group of Tony Aldeguer of the ALA Stable in Cebu, renowned manager Wakee Salud, who has produced three world champions, and Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato.

Interested parties may call the PSC-POC Media Group at the RMSC at 536-4722.

Manny Pacquiao, who flies to Manila Sunday after completing rigorous training in Davao, has been invited to introduce Roach.

Main subjects to be touched by Roach

include the ideal shape, both physically and spiritually, of a boxer; what's expected of a trainer and what he must do to guide and improve a boxer.

Participants are requested to prepare one basic problem each and submit this to the secretariat for dissemination in time for the question-answer portion on Day 1.

A top nutritionist is being lined up to speak, while journalist Ronnie Nathanielsz has offered to show a rare film of Flash Elorde's epic fight against Sandy Saddler.

If time warrants, Roach, an Elorde fan, will be asked to dissect Pacquiao's devastating conquest of Marco Antonio Barrera, complete with a tape of the bout proper.

Roach is also expected to bare how he led Pacquiao to stardom and demonstrate how he could help other poor Filipino fighters aspire for fame and fortune.

Good God

BLANKETS and other valuables, including maybe cash, are due for distribution shortly to typhoon victims in Quezon and other affected areas. They will primarily come from the Baguio Country Club through the instigation of Anthony de Leon, the BCC general manager.

"Again, our humble way of contributing our share to our brothers and sisters who had suffered the brunt of the typhoons," said Anthony. "Modesty aside, we don't wait for things to happen. We make things happen."

He made the move with "Yoyong," the typhoon predicted on Wednesday to be the mother of all typhoons, still to hit land.

There are about 2,000 involved in the 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational now ongoing at both the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay. It started on Nov. 29 and will end on Dec. 12.

Some 25 teams are entered in the Seniors Division tournament that ended yesterday, with at least five players comprising one squad. The Men's Regular event, set for Dec. 7-12, has attracted 65 teams, each team also having at least five players for the tournament.

The "pass-the-hat" for the typhoon victims initiated by De Leon has elicited applause not only from the golfers, who did not waste time pitching in not just loose change but a really substantial amount of money, but also from literally everyone gathered in the City of Pines for the Fil-Am event—sponsors, drivers of golfers, scorers, media persons and, yes, even mere kibitzers. This is yet another proof of the Filipino's inherent trait of coming to the rescue of someone in need, especially in times like this when misery stalks the land.

But my-oh-my, what's really happening to our country?

The fiscal crisis was bad enough.

The pork barrel has been gnawing away at the guts of our miserable folk, testing the limits of patience of the downtrodden. Is the social volcano for real?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



Hey look, two typhoons hit us in a span of 10 days, claiming, as of last count, nearly 600 lives.

And just when we thought nature's wrath was over, "Yoyong" threatened to slam the entire archipelago. This 26th typhoon of the year was packing winds of at least 220 kph.

Gosh, the flogging is for real.

Has God stopped loving us?

For decades, it's become almost commonplace to see corruption all around us.

Will the Filipino masses just continue to sit and do nothing about it?

I won't blame God if He'd soon lose his cool—if He hasn't lost it yet. But knowing Him, He hates hurting us really. He can spank us, but never will He flog us.

Look, He took pity on us yet again. "Yoyong" spared us and, if that's not God's handiwork, I don't know what is. We prayed, He took care of the rest.

Oh, never mind that "Yoyong" washed out the last round of the 55th Fil-Am Seniors play on Friday. You lose some, win some.

God does this and that for a reason. Most times, we can't decipher His reason. Like, how come it is always the poor who suffer the most each time there is a calamity, typhoon-made or not?

I know God, a.k.a. Boss-Tsip, has an answer to everything. But, almost always, He doesn't give replies. As one baseball great said, "God does not answer letters."

If I may add, God only acts. He hates blah-blah-blah.

Manila B, Cantilan keep lead

Standings after round 4 (Matchplay system):

3.5—Cantilan (Surigao Del Sur), Manila B; 3.0—Tagaytay City A, Mandaluyong City, Muntinlupa City, Manila A, Marikina City; 2.5—Muntinlupa City, Dasmariñas; 2.0—Makati City, RP Women's Team, Quezon City, Tanauan City, Calamba City, Bacoor, Manila (Navy), Baguio City, General Santos City; 1.5—San Fernando City (Pampanga), Tagbilaran City, Cavite City; 1.0—San Fernando City (La Union), Tagaytay City B, Manila; 0.0—RP Assn Youth, Los Baños

TAGAYTAY CITY—Reigning Asian zonal champion International Master Ronald

Dableo downed National Master Cesar Caturia as fifth seed Manila B salvaged a 2-2 standoff with 13th seed Cantilan (Surigao Del Sur) that kept both teams in the lead of the ongoing 2004 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship Friday at the Tagaytay Sports Center here.

Dableo won with white to nullify Cantilan's lone win on Board 3 through Fame Razon, who beat Manila's Noel Dela Cruz.

MANILA/A29



A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Read more. Be more.

Aguinaldo joins Southwoods as big Fil-Am winners

By Frank Cimat
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—With organizers scrapping the final round due to Typhoon "Yoyong," Camp Aguinaldo joined Manila Southwoods as the big winners of the inaugural seniors division of the 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational Tournament here Friday.

The Aguinaldo golfers, bracing for a final-round onslaught by the fast-closing Syndicate Seniors and Aloha, emerged the Am Division winner by 10 points in the Championship flight.

Manila Southwoods topped the Fil Division by 37 points over National Bureau of Investigation and 39 over Aloha.

John Hay sweep

Camp John Hay won both the Fil and Am divisions in Flight A while co-host Baguio Country Club duplicated the feat in Flight B.

Pines Golf Club of California, a team of balikbayans from Baguio, ruled Flight C's Fil Division over Club Intramuros.

James Alviar scored 29 in the third round to lead PGCC with 272 points. Intramuros carded 256.

In the Am Division, Philippine Senior Founders amassed 240 points for a whopping 51-point victory over Greenwater Meadows. Club Intramuros was third with 133.

In Flight E, Sam Strong of the Davao Eagle Master scored 72 to lead his team to victory in the Fil Division. Davao Eagle Master had 256 points followed by Team Victory with 244, Batch 92 with 232 and Isabela Golf Club with 229.

In the Am Division, Sustagen I posted 243 points to prevail over a 12-team field. Team Brassie was second with 233 while Philippine Navy was third with 222.

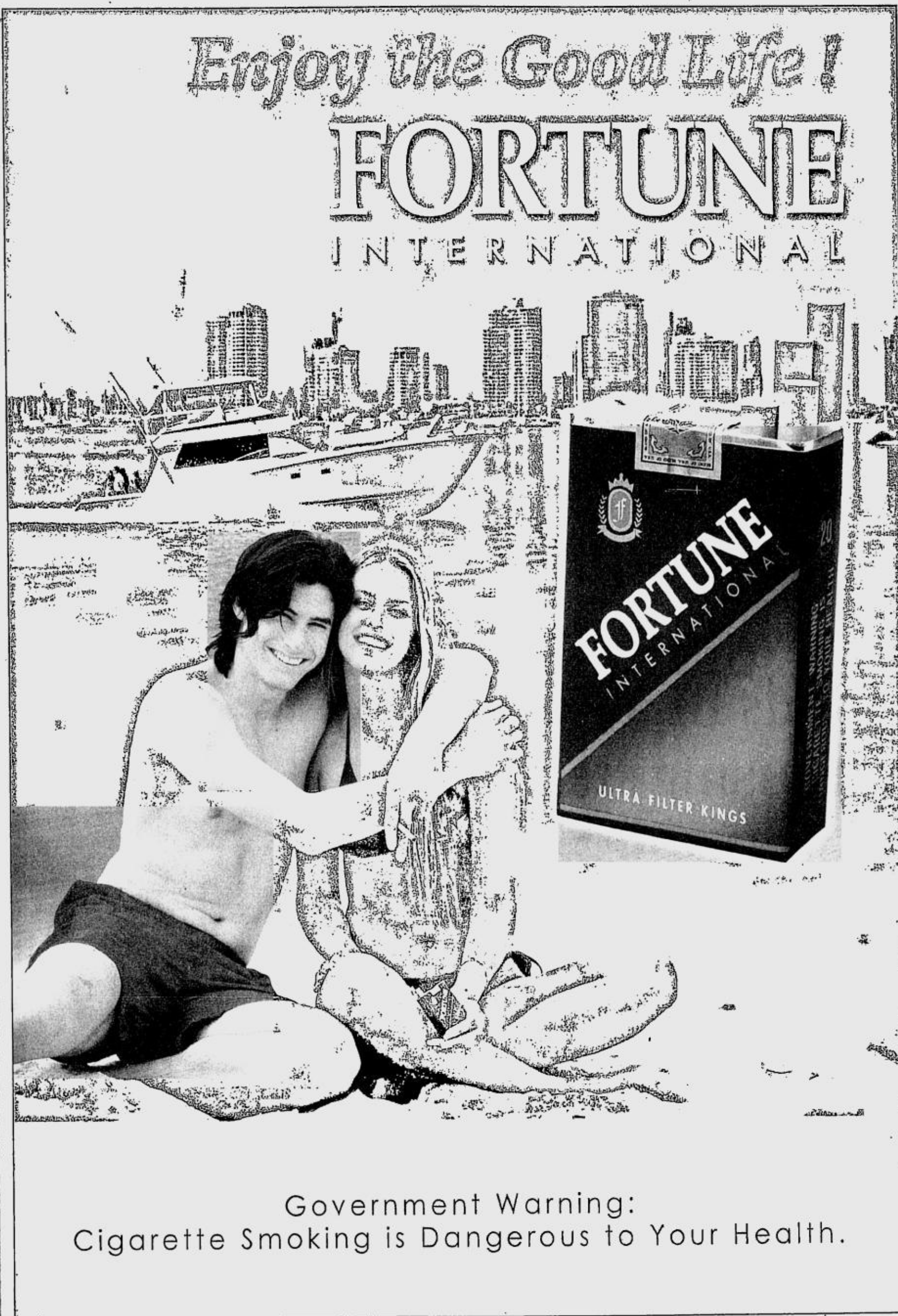
In the F Flight, Seoul Survivors, led by James Adamski, won with a 263 total in the Fil Division. Greenwater Meadows was second with 238, just a point ahead of Sustagen 1. Benguet Farmers, spearheaded by former Benguet governor Raul Molintas, was fourth with 227.

Balikbayan scores

In the Am Division, Balikbayan won with 208, followed by BCC with 177, Isabela Golf Club with 176, and Benguet Fil Am with 173.

Tournament organizers decided to lump Flights E and F of the regular tournament with the seniors to ease the traffic for next week's regular tournament.

The regular men's division starts Monday with Mizuno, Nike Golf, Del Monte and Southwoods fighting for top honors in both divisions of the Championship flight.



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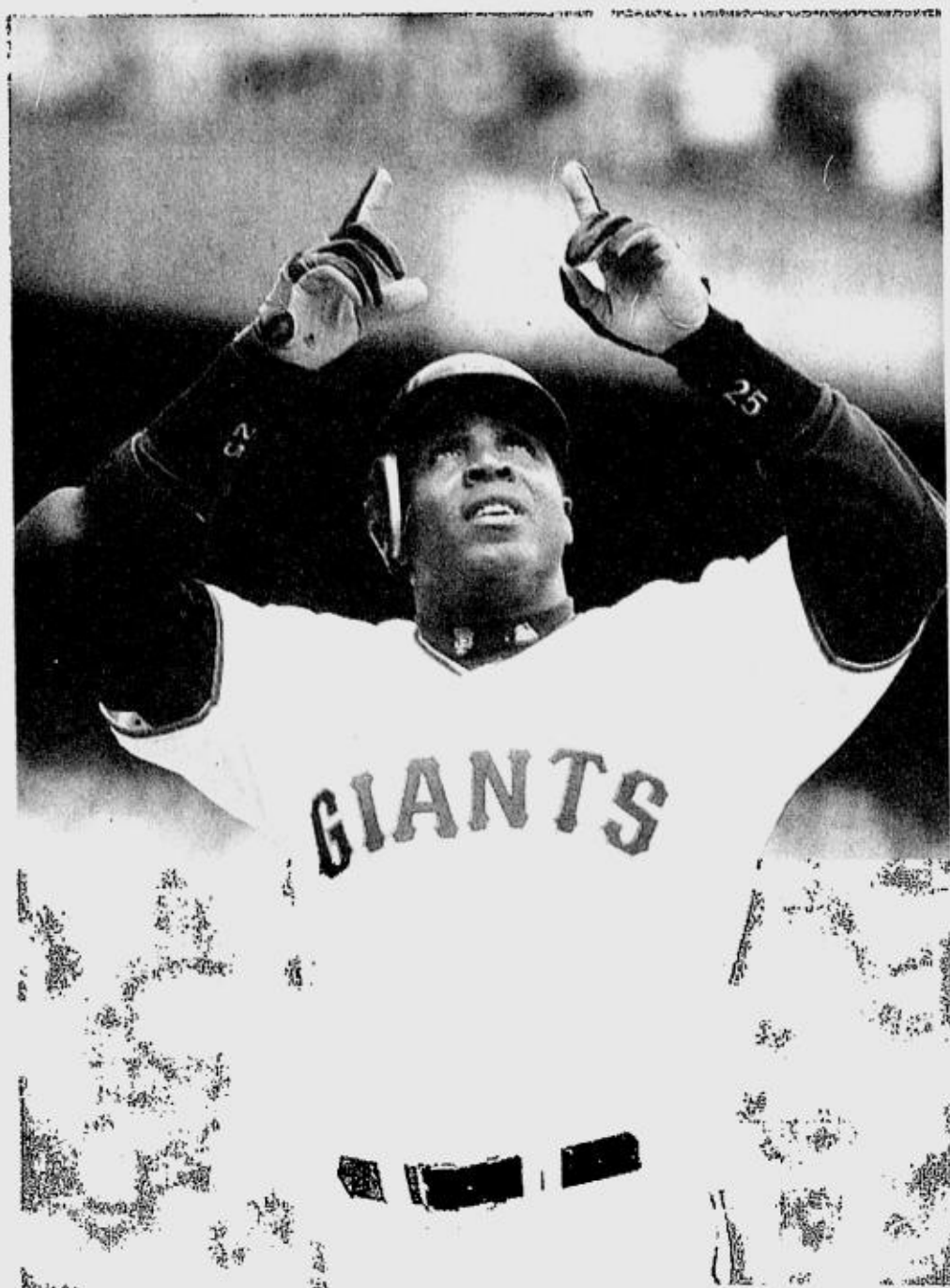
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HOME RUN king Barry Bonds, seen here after hitting his 701st career homer, admitted to a grand jury he inadvertently used performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds unaware he was using steroids

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds testified to a grand jury that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in a steroid-distribution ring, but said he didn't know they were steroids, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Friday.

Bonds told the federal grand jury last year that Greg Anderson, his personal trainer, told him the substances he used in 2003 were the nutritional supplement flaxseed oil and a rubbing balm for arthritis, according to a transcript of his testimony reviewed by the Chronicle.

The substances Bonds described were similar to ones known as "the clear" and "the cream," two steroids from the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, the lab at the center of the steroid scandal.

Bonds' lawyer, Michael Rains, said the grand jury testimony leak was an attempt to smear his client. Grand jury transcripts are sealed and the Chronicle did not say who leaked the documents.

"My view has always been this case has been the US vs Bonds, and I think the government has moved in certain ways in a concerted effort to indict my client," Rains told the newspaper. "And I think their failure to indict him has resulted in their attempts to smear him publicly."

Calls to Rains' office from The Associated Press went unanswered Thursday night.

Tony Serra, Anderson's lawyer, said Anderson "never knowingly provided illegal substances to anyone."

The Chronicle story is the latest development this week in the more than yearlong BALCO probe. On Thursday, the paper reported Yankees slugger Jason Giambi told the grand jury he injected himself with human growth hormone in 2003 and also used steroids for at least three seasons.

Before the Bonds story was even published, US Attorney Kevin Ryan said his office was concerned about the leaks to the Chronicle and asked the Justice Department to investigate.

Also, ABC News and ESPN the Magazine released excerpts of interviews with Conte, in which the BALCO founder admits to watching Olympic star Marion Jones inject herself in the leg with human growth hormone.

Dozens of elite athletes testified before the grand jury last year, including baseball stars Bonds, Giambi and Gary Sheffield, and track stars Jones, Tim Montgomery and Kelli White.

But Bonds is the biggest star of all, the holder of baseball's single-season home run record of 73 in 2001 and the man who could break Hank Aaron's career homer mark of 755 as early as next year. Bonds ended last season with 703 homers and won his record seventh NL Most Valuable Player award.

Shoot-out in Texas

Nowitzki fires 53, McGrady 48 as Mavs ground slumping Rockets

DALLAS, Texas—German hotshot Dirk Nowitzki scored a career-high 53 points to lead the Dallas Mavericks past the Houston Rockets, 113-106, in overtime here Thursday in a National Basketball Association Texas showdown that turned into a classic shootout.

Nowitzki's total, a club record, was the highest total in the NBA this season and outshined a season-high 48 points from two-time defending league scoring champion Tracy McGrady for the Rockets in a losing cause.

How exciting was the Texas shootout? Players on the bench compared it with the heyday of Larry Bird and Michael Jordan.

"This was like Jordan and Bird hooking up," said Dallas' Jason Terry.

The Mavericks never trailed in overtime thanks to Nowitzki scoring the first 10 points of the extra session, capping the run with a 3-pointer to give Dallas a 103-93 edge just 85 seconds into the extra period.

"There are nights when the basket seems a lot bigger than it is," Nowitzki said. "I loved the way I started right away. I felt it was going to be a good night and I stayed aggressive."

Nowitzki made 15-of-32 shots and sank 21-of-22 free throws and contributed a game-high 16 rebounds in 50 minutes on the court. He also had four blocks.

"Dirk definitely can carry us," Mavericks coach Don Nelson said. "It's a good idea to keep the ball in his hands when he's hot. It's not a bad idea to keep it there when he's cold."

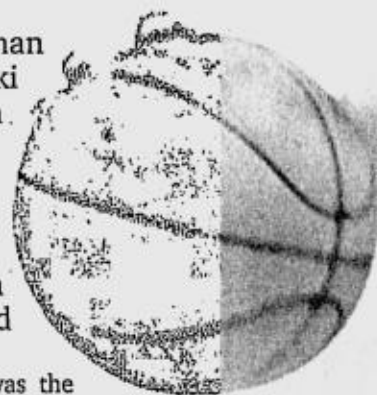
McGrady, who averaged under 16 points in his past three games, went 19-of-36 from the floor, including 6-of-13 from 3-point range.

"That was an incredible game to watch," Nelson said. "There was some incredible shot-making by two guys who deserve to be all-pros."

Jim Jackson, who shared the previous Mavericks' one-game scoring record of 50 points with Jamal Mashburn, added 17 points off the bench for Houston, which suffered a five consecutive loss.

Chinese center Yao Ming had a miserable night for the Rockets. The 7-foot-6 stand-out connected on only 4-of-15 shots and fouling out after playing 36 minutes with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

Marquis



GREAT performances all: Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki comes up with a career-high to bury the Rockets, who found Tracy McGrady's (right photo) season-best not enough. Top photo shows a dunk by Cleveland's LeBron James, who finally notched a victory against longtime rival Carmelo Anthony of the Denver Nuggets.

'Don't ask any questions, just trust me'

SAN FRANCISCO—It was a visit intended to cement a friendship between two of baseball's biggest sluggers as they worked themselves into shape for the 2002 season.

But as New York Yankees outfielder Gary Sheffield told a federal grand jury, his training trip to the Peninsula home of San Francisco Giants superstar Barry Bonds brought nothing but aggravation.

The players' friendship collapsed from pointless squabbles over a rent-a-car, Sheffield said. Sheffield had to pay \$10,000 to Bonds' trainer for what he considered worthless substances. And, 18 months later, Sheffield was slapped with a

subpoena and dragged into the BALCO steroids scandal.

In his Dec. 11, 2003, testimony before the BALCO grand jury, Sheffield said that after the baseball season ended in 2001, he had accepted a standing invitation to come west and work out with Bonds, whom he had gotten to know while playing with the National League Los Angeles Dodgers and Florida Marlins. He said the Giants slugger had promised that a new workout regimen would make Sheffield less injury-prone.

After he arrived, Sheffield said he was introduced to Bonds' trainer, Greg Anderson. At Bonds' instruction, he said, Ander-

son began giving him a liquid called "the clear," a massage balm called "the cream" and pills called "red beans."

The government says "the cream" and "the clear" were "designer steroids" marketed by Anderson and BALCO lab founder Victor Conte. "Red beans" were steroid pills produced in Mexico.

That's not what he was told, Sheffield said. He said Anderson had told him "the cream" would ease the pain from his arthritic knees, while "the clear" and the "beans" were a part of a regimen of special nutritional supplements that would leave him injury-free.

Sheffield's attorney, Paula Canny, ex-

pressed concern that her client's grand jury testimony was revealed but also said he had been honest with the government.

"Gary testified truthfully before the grand jury," Canny said. "He always said he was going to tell the truth, and he told the truth."

In his testimony, Sheffield said he had seen Bonds using the cream and the clear substance.

"That's when I asked Barry, you know, about this guy, Greg Anderson," Sheffield told the grand jury. "And he goes, you know, 'Don't ask any questions, just trust me, you know, you're going to be OK.'"

New York Times News Service

White claims to be a victim of her ambitions

NEW YORK—People constantly tell Kelli White that she looks different these days, that she only vaguely resembles the bulky sprinter who won two gold medals at the World Track and Field Championships in August 2003. She knows that she has changed far beyond the slimming effects of ending a doping program that transformed her body and helped her win the medals.

In addition to 15 pounds, she says, she has shed a lot of guilt. White, 27, confessed to taking illegal performance-enhancing drugs in May and received a two-year ban from the US Anti-Doping Agency. On Thursday, she sat down for her first newspaper interview since the ban, talking to three reporters in a Manhattan con-

ference room. She looked like a fashion model in an elegant pink wool cape over an outfit of black stretch pants and a sleeveless turtleneck, which showed off toned arms and a smooth pair of shoulders that once bore patches of acne—a side effect of the drugs she took.

White said she hates seeing pictures of herself from 2003, her most triumphant year on the track. Being big didn't offend her vanity. But being a complete stranger was unbearable.

She cried as she remembered seeing herself in the newspapers and on TV.

"I had to become somebody totally different than I was," White said, then paused several seconds to compose herself. "I had to compromise my integrity to do this and

my value system, and what I believed in, to make the decision to do this, because I knew it was so wrong. ... I look at that person, and I'm, that's not Kelli White.

White said that the cycle began secretly for her. Four years ago, after she had returned from college in Tennessee to train in the Bay Area, she said her coach since adolescence, Remi Korchemny, introduced her to Bay Area Lab Co-Operative president Victor Conte, a self-styled nutritionist and sports consultant. Conte and Korchemny, both now under federal indictment on charges of distributing illegal drugs, gave White a substance and told her that it was flaxseed oil, she said. A couple of weeks later, she said, Conte changed his story.

"I'm not sure if Victor felt guilty for lying to me," White said.

The substance, she said, was really THG, a designer steroid that was known as "the clear."

She said she went off the "clear" as soon as she learned what it was. Then in the winter of 2003, she went to the indoor national championships and saw another of Conte's clients, whom she declined to identify, perform exceptionally well. White, on the other hand, did not qualify for the indoor national team.

"I decided that this person's not going to be beating me (outdoors)," White said. "I called Victor, and we started working together again."

New York Times News Service

Babe's Yankee tops \$1 million

NEW YORK—Going, going, gone. The massive 46-ounce Louisville Slugger used by Babe Ruth to drill the first home run in Yankee Stadium history was sold for a record \$1.26 million to an unidentified private collector.

The bat, 36 inches of solid ash billed as "The Holy Grail of sports memorabilia," sold Thursday after about one minute of high-stakes bidding at Sotheby's auction house, fetching a Ruthian price above its presale estimate of \$1 million, said Sotheby's spokeswoman Lauren Gioia.

The bat was only the third piece of sports memorabilia to break the \$1 million mark at auction, joining Mark McGwire's 70th home run ball (\$3 million) and a 1909 Honus Wagner baseball card (\$1.265 million), the auction house said. It was the most ever paid for a baseball bat.

The winning bid—about half the \$2.5 million it originally cost to build Yankee Stadium—came from Doug Allen, president of the Chicago-based auction house MastroNet Inc., on behalf of an East Coast collector who preferred to remain anonymous. The

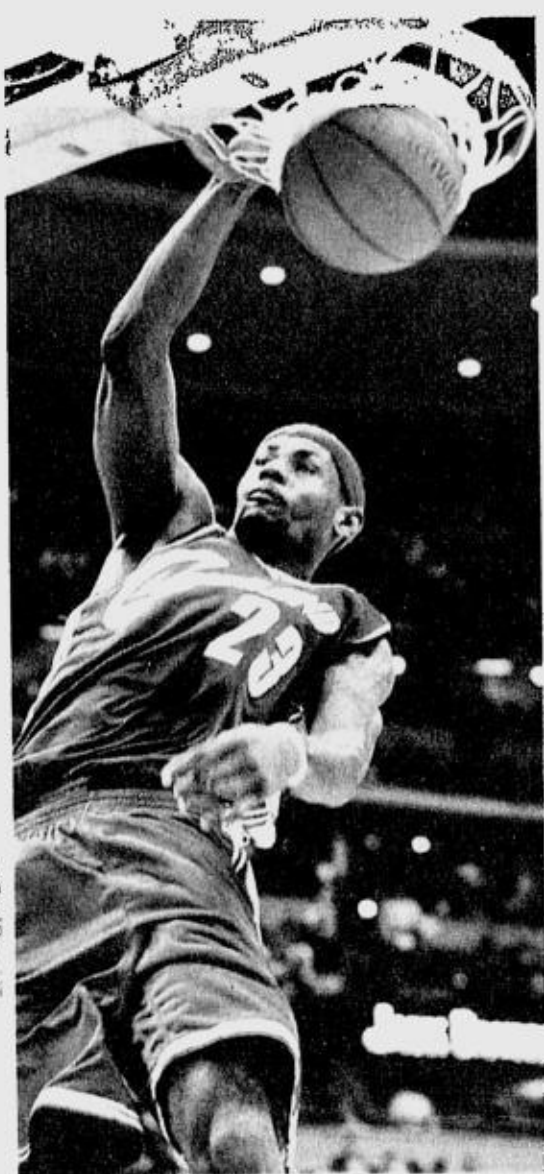
hammer price was with a 15-percent added.

"It was a blur, the gavel fell on it of \$1,265,000," sitting in the adrenaline pump.

Ruth lugged the bat with him to 18, 1923, the "The House of Ruth" With 74,000 fans, Ruth christened the bat with a third-inning right field blast, a New York Yankees beat Sox, 4-1.

The bat didn't enter Rudy's blast back in the days of a million dollars, donated to the Les Evening Her prize in a high hitting contest.

The bat still has a script: "To the King of Los Angeles, N.Y. May 7, 1955 later, high school Orsatti was president; he kept it 40 years later.



Grizzlies appoint Fratello coach

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Mike Fratello was named coach of the National Basketball Association's Memphis Grizzlies here Thursday, one week after the surprise resignation of his NBA mentor, Hubie Brown.

Fratello follows his friend's NBA coaching footsteps for the second time, having previously replaced him as coach at Atlanta in 1993.

"When you take over a team that was coached by Hubie Brown you have one that has discipline and organization," said Fratello, who makes his Grizzlies coaching debut here Friday against Philadelphia.

Fratello, who had been working as a television analyst since leaving as coach of Cleveland in 1999, takes charge of a club that won a team-record 50 games last season and reached the NBA playoffs for the first time.

"It's great to have this opportunity after 5 1/2 years out of the game," Fratello said.

The Grizzlies are the third NBA team for Fratello, who has a career record of 592-499 in 13 seasons.

The Grizzlies were 5-7 when Brown, 71, resigned a week ago for unspecified health reasons. **AFP**

Daniels and Jason Terry each scored 14 points and Jerry Stackhouse 13 for Dallas, which won for the third time in four games.

Lebron's breakthrough

In Denver, Colorado—LeBron James defied Denver's double-teaming defense to score a game-high 17 points Thursday in a 92-73 Cleveland victory that gave the second-year star his first victory over rival Carmelo Anthony.

James was the NBA Rookie of the Year last season but had lost all three prior matchups against Anthony, two last season when both were newcomers and another when they were high school stars.

"I guess he's buying for me tonight," James said. "It was a great win. I've got to win a couple more against him."

James scored 12 of his 17 points in the first half, sparking a 28-4 run that lifted Cleveland ahead 58-30 at half-time. It was the highest-scoring half of the young season for Cleveland and the lowest-scoring half of the season for Denver.

James also contributed nine assists and eight rebounds for the Cavaliers, frustrating Denver's defense with passes as well as scoring.

"They were doubling and tripling on me," James said. "I have enough confidence in my teammates that they are going to hit they shot and that's what they did."

Anthony, who missed Denver's prior game with a sprained right ankle, struggled but led the Nuggets with 14 points.

Robert Traylor and Jeff McInnis each scored 15 points for Cleveland. McInnis scored all 15 of his points in the first half for the Cavaliers, who had lost both prior games of their road trip.

"They didn't think we would have energy after we played last night," James said. "They were going to run on us but we did it against them."

The Cavaliers rose to 10-6, matching Miami and Indiana as the winningest clubs in the Eastern Conference. The Nuggets slid to 8-7, 10th in the Western Conference. **AFP**

UNDER PRESSURE

US PGA alters Ryder Cup eligibility rules

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—The PGA of America revamped its system for qualifying for the Ryder Cup team on Thursday, giving additional points for winning and quadrupling the points awarded during the year the matches are played.

It was the first major change in the US points system since 1993, when more emphasis was placed on the majors.

The PGA came under pressure to alter the way the US team is selected after the Americans sustained their worst loss to Europe, 18 1/2-9 1/2, in September at Oakland Hills.

"You do the best you can to get the best players," PGA president Roger Warren said. "They have to play better than the other team. We wouldn't be looking at the process if we had been more successful."

Europe has captured the Ryder Cup seven of the last 10 times.

The US team had only five 2004 winners out of 12 players. Among those who failed to qualify was Todd Hamilton, a 38-year-old rookie whose two victories included the British Open, where he went the final 40 holes against Ernie Els before beating him in a playoff.

Several players had complained that the system was not current and included too many players no longer at the peak of their games.

"The new system rewards the game's hottest players, as well as many players who have won events in the year of the matches," Warren said.

The next Ryder Cup will be in 2006 at the K



HAMILTON

Club in Ireland.

PGA Tour victories at the end of 2004 and all of 2005 will be worth 75 points, with points awarded down to 10th place. That's how it was under the old system.

The big change comes in 2006, when PGA Tour victories are worth 375 points. Previously, regular tour victories during a Ryder Cup year were worth only 150 points. Points for PGA Tour events, from first place to 10th, will be worth four times as much during Ryder Cup years, with an extra 75 points for

winning.

The biggest change is in the major championships.

A major victory in 2005 will be worth 450 points (up from 225), while 10th place will earn 25 points. Majors in 2006 will be worth 675 points (up from 300), with 10th place worth 40 points.

Chris Riley earned the last spot on the Ryder Cup team this year with 576.786 points.

Points will be earned through the 2006 PGA Championship. The top 10 players make the team, and captain Tom Lehman will pick two other players.

Europe changed its selection process for the 2004 matches, taking five top players from world ranking points, five from the European tour money list and two captain's picks. Unlike the United States, however, Europe's standings do not begin until one year before the Ryder Cup. **AP**

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	PCT	GB
New York	8	6	.571	-
Boston	6	8	.429	2
Philadelphia	6	8	.429	2
Toronto	7	10	.412	2 1/2
New Jersey	3	12	.200	5 1/2
Southeast Division	W	L	PCT	GB
Orlando	9	5	.643	-
Miami	10	6	.625	-
Washington	8	5	.615	1/2
Charlotte	3	10	.231	5 1/2
Atlanta	2	12	.143	7
Central Division	W	L	PCT	GB
Indiana	10	5	.667	-
Cleveland	10	6	.625	-
Detroit	7	7	.500	2 1/2
Milwaukee	4	9	.308	5
Chicago	2	10	.167	6 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	PCT	GB
San Antonio	13	3	.812	-
Dallas	11	6	.647	2 1/2
Houston	6	11	.353	7
Memphis	5	11	.312	8
New Orleans	1	13	.071	11
Northwest Division	W	L	PCT	GB
Seattle	14	3	.824	-
Minnesota	9	5	.643	3 1/2
Portland	8	6	.571	4 1/2
Denver	8	7	.533	5
Utah	8	8	.500	5 1/2
Pacific Division	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	13	2	.867	-
Sacramento	10	5	.667	3
LA Clippers	10	6	.625	3 1/2
LA Lakers	9	7	.562	4 1/2
Golden State	3	11	.214	9 1/2

Spain's Jimenez shows way in Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG—Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez fired a second-round 64 to grab the lead at the halfway stage of the Hong Kong Open on Friday.

Jimenez claimed six birdies to open up a two-shot lead over his Ryder Cup teammate David Howell at the jointly sanctioned Asian and European Tour event.

"I'm in the mood and I'm feeling great," said Jimenez, the most prolific winner on the European Tour in 2004 with four titles.

Briton Howell, who like Jimenez had started the day one shot behind overnight leader Adam

Groom of Australia, began superbly with an eagle on his third hole and suffered his first bogey of the tournament at the last.

"It was coming really," said Howell. "I have rarely gone a day without firing a bogey and to have two days without one would have been amazing."

Defending champion Padraig Harrington of Ireland was four shots behind the leader after struggling with his putting in a round of 69.

He was tied in third place with Italy's Alessandro Tadini and South African Louis Oosthuizen who shot 67 and 64, respectively. **Reuters**

Local leads Aussie golf

COOLUM, Australia—Former Australian amateur James Nitties, playing in his fourth professional golf tournament, shot a 7-under-par 65 Friday to take a one-shot lead after two rounds of the Australian PGA.

Nitties, who opened with a 67, has a 12-under-par total of 132, a stroke ahead of first-round leader Bob Estes of the United States.

Estes, playing in tougher afternoon conditions on the Hyatt Regency resort course, was tied with Nitties for much of his round but a bogey on the par-5 15th—where he missed a 10-foot putt for par—left him with a 70 Friday and

a shot behind Nitties.

Estes' birdie putt from 15 feet that would have pulled him back into a tie for the lead slid past the hole on 18. The 38-year-old American tied the course record of 9-under 63 in the opening round Thursday.

"It wasn't even the same game today," said Estes. "I played as well today as I did on Thursday, but the winds were gusting, changing direction, knocking us all around. It was really tough."

Australian Peter Lonard matched Nitties' 65 Friday and is in third place at 10-under 134. **AP**

home run bat on at auction

is \$1.1 million, nt commission

Allen said after final sales price it was exciting room, lots of ng."

historic lum- plate on April st game inside it Ruth Built." ns looking on, the new ballpark ng blast into the ers as his New the Boston Red

et out much af- The Bambino, when the con- collar bat was in- o the Los Ange- ld as the top hool home run

bears Ruth's in- Boy Home Run es, 'Babe' Ruth, 3." One month slugger Victor ented with the til his death 61

The bat was willed to Orsatti's caretaker, who stored it under her bed until putting it up for auction. A portion of the proceeds will go toward a youth baseball program at a Mexican orphanage, the auction house said.

The auction also included several items connected to the Brooklyn Dodgers, which moved to Los Angeles in 1957. The Los Angeles Dodgers, owned since February by Boston real estate developer Frank McCourt, bought the items as part of a plan to mark the 50th anniversary of the Dodgers' 1955 triumph over their bitter Bronx rivals, the Yankees—their only title while in New York City.

Travis McCourt, a 21-year-old student at Georgetown University who handled the bidding for the family, made the winning bids for team captain Pee Wee Reese's 14-karat gold 1955 World Championship ring with an accompanying team picture, mounted on a wood plaque, that hung for years in Reese's home (\$72,000); for 1955 game-worn Dodgers jackets from Reese (\$9,000) and pitcher Billy Loes (\$1,680); and an engraved silver platter given to Reese by his 1955 teammates (\$13,200). **AP**

New York launches 2012 Olympic host bid

LONDON—New York has launched a new phase in its bid for the 2012 Olympics, taking its message directly to the people who will select the host city.

The NYC2012 committee mailed out a giant promotional brochure Thursday to the 117 voting members of the International Olympic Committee.

It's the first major push of New York's international campaign since the submission

of its detailed bid book to the IOC in Switzerland last month.

The coffee table-style brochure, which weighs 1.35 kilograms (3 pounds) and measures 96-by-66 centimeters (38-by-26 inches), features black and white photographs of New York landmarks and of Olympic performances.

The brochure, described by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as "bold and

distinctive," also was sent to leaders of national Olympic committees and international sports federations. The text is in five languages—English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

The New York bid team hopes it will help set the city apart from its European rivals—Paris, London, Madrid and Moscow. The IOC will select the host city at a meeting in Singapore on July 6.

With Paris considered the front-runner, New York must work hard to secure support from a committee dominated by European members. New York must also contend with anti-American sentiment and possible reluctance to award the games to North America two years after the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver.

Bloomberg said the brochure highlights the "power and energy" of the city. **AP**

Castillo stakes WBC crown vs Casamayor

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Cuban southpaw Joel Casamayor, a former world junior lightweight champion, moves up to fight for the World Boxing Council lightweight crown Saturday against Mexican champion Jose Luis Castillo.

The 12-round showdown here sends Casamayor, 31-2 with 19 knockouts, against veteran Castillo, 50-6 with one drawn and 45 knockouts. Casamayor said he moved up because he could not find profitable foes in his weight class.

"I had no problem with the weight but nobody would fight me," Casamayor said. "But Castillo is a warrior and has heart."

Castillo rebounded from two

losses to American Floyd Mayweather and beat another American, Juan Lazcano, in June for the WBC crown. Castillo plans to take the attack to Casamayor early.

"I think the best thing to do is pressure him," Castillo said. "He's very smart so we can't let him take his time and think in the ring. I have to go after him."

"I am a counterpuncher with power in both hands and I love to see a guy come to me," Casamayor said.

The card here also includes an all-American matchup for the International Boxing Federation title with unbeaten champion Jeff Lacy, 17-0 with 14 knockouts, taking on Omar Sheika, 26-6 with 17 knockouts. **AFP**



WBC lightweight champion Jose Luis Castillo (left) of Mexico, poses with challenger Joel Casamayor, a Cuban who fights out of Miami, during a news conference.

Roddick match pumps up Nadal

Brash teenager shows no Davis Cup jitters

SEVILLE, Spain—If Rafael Nadal is nervous going into his Davis Cup final against Andy Roddick, he isn't showing it.

Anticipating his match at Olympic Stadium before an expected record crowd of 26,600 on Friday, the 18-year-old Nadal made one wish.

"I'd like 10,000 more fans," he said.

It's that brash attitude that prompted Spain's three captains to name him over former world No. 1 and French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Roddick and Nadal play the second singles match of the best-of-five series. Spain's top player, Carlos Moya, faces Mardy Fish in the opener Friday.

"Hopefully I am going to win my match and give him (Nadal) confidence going on the court leading 1-0," Moya said.

In Saturday's doubles, American twins Bob and Mike Bryan should have the edge over Nadal and Tommy Robredo. In Sunday's reverse singles, Moya is slated to face Roddick, followed by Nadal vs Fish.

"He has a lot of game," Roddick said. "He hits the ball a ton, he's very competitive and in an atmosphere like this he is going to get the crowd going."

Roddick is the key for the Americans as they bid for a 32nd Davis Cup title, and their first since 1995.

Meanwhile, Nadal is lined up to play three matches as Spain tries to win only its second Davis Cup. However, the line-ups for Saturday and Sunday can be changed.

"Certainly Roddick's favored," said Nadal, a free-swing left-hander who was picked ahead of Ferrero, who has battled chicken pox and broken ribs in his worst season. "He is No. 2 in the

world, and that's on any surface.

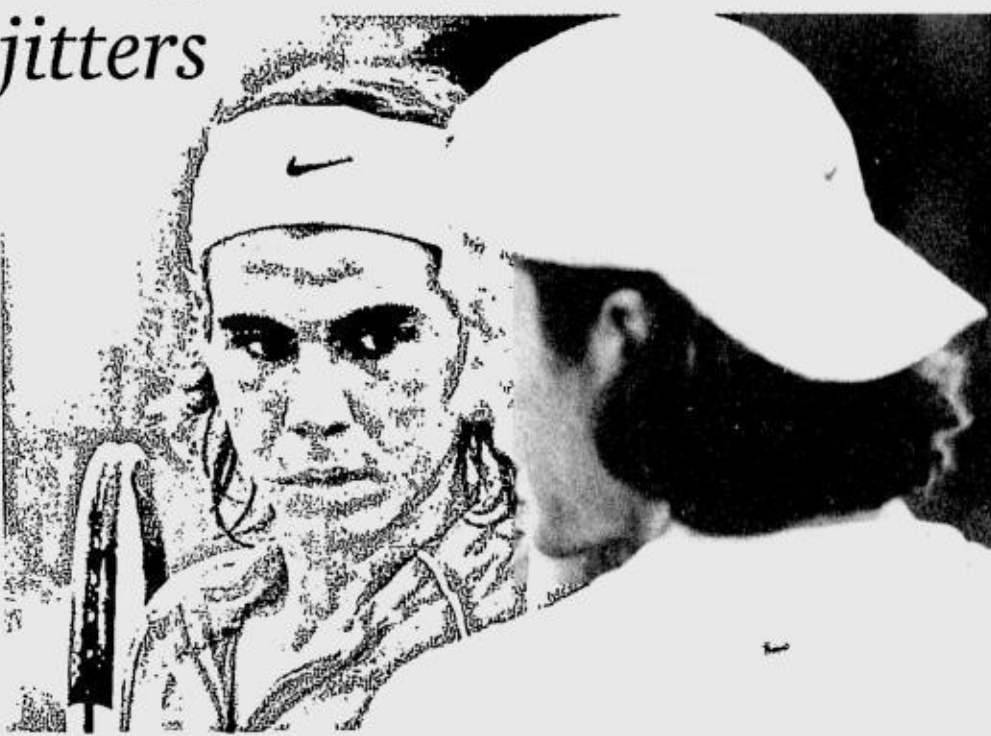
"I'm just going to go out and play, but I know it's going to be a very hard match."

Roddick brushed off Nadal three months ago in the second round of the US Open, 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.

This time it's on clay. Despite being Spain's lowest-ranked player at 51, he's performed in the Davis Cup. The youngest Davis Cup player in Spanish history, he won the deciding fifth match against the Czech Republic in February. As a late replacement for Moya, he won the clinching match in the semifinals against France.

Ferrero is the only returning player from the 2000 team that beat Australia in Barcelona, and he may still get a chance.

"If I close my eyes, I want to see myself on the court on Sunday," Ferrero said.



RAFAEL Nadal (left) gets a few pointers from Carlos Moya.

AFP



EXHIBITION: Jamar Davis, known as the Pharmacist, gives an opponent a dose of streetball medicine by pulling his jersey over his face during the recent AND 1 Mix Tape Tour, which featured American ballers who performed different stunts while playing.

Amelie doesn't regret skipping Fed Cup

PARIS—Former world No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo insisted Thursday she had no regrets over her decision not to play for France in her country's doomed attempt to defend the Fed Cup.

Mauresmo outraged team captain Guy Forget over her withdrawal from the French team, which lost to Russia but she believes she desperately needed a break from the game in order to be fully prepared for the 2005 season.

"I came back from vacation on Sunday and I

saw the last two matches on television," said the 25-year-old.

"I don't regret at all not going to Moscow because I took my decision for sporting reasons. I discussed my reasons with Guy Forget but that will stay between him and me."

Mauresmo, who briefly held the world No. 1 spot last season before surrendering it to Lindsay Davenport, said she will skip the 2005 opener in Sydney to prepare her assault on the opening

Grand Slam of the season, the Australian Open in Melbourne later in January.

"For the first time, I see myself not taking part in Sydney because I want to arrive in Melbourne fresh physically and mentally," said Mauresmo. "It is the only Grand Slam where I can do this."

Mauresmo has yet to crack her Grand Slam duck but she believes the lack of a major title should not discredit her place as a world No. 1.

AFP

Manny draws admiration from NFL peers

INDIANAPOLIS—Brett Favre's appreciation for Peyton Manning's efficiency has reached another level: astonishment.

Manning's record-breaking achievements are becoming as routine as his audibles, and his almost incomprehensible numbers this season have forced other NFL quarterbacks to view Manning and the Indianapolis Colts differently.

"I think it's amazing what they're doing, what

he's doing," said Favre, the league's only three-time MVP. "I think they've built that offense to where they're at a point right now where they dare you to try to stop someone, and that's a hell of a place to be."

With five games left, Manning, last year's co-MVP, has put himself in the biggest fishbowl of all.

He's already thrown 41 touchdowns and is closing in on the league's single-season record for

touchdown passes, the NFL's equivalent to baseball's home run record.

New York Giants quarterback Kurt Warner can empathize with what Manning is about to endure during the season's final month. In 1999, the first of his two MVP seasons with the St. Louis Rams, Warner threw 41 touchdown passes.

Only Marino, who had 48 in 1984 and 44 in 1986, has thrown more.

AP



The Good News

With a long history of excellence, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has been a source of reliable news and information for over a century. Its commitment to balanced reporting and fearless views has earned it a reputation as one of the most respected news organizations in the Philippines.

We continue to uphold the highest standards of journalism, providing our readers with the most accurate and comprehensive coverage of local and international events. Our dedication to the truth and our commitment to the public good are the cornerstones of our mission.

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SPORTSWATCH

PBA moves to help typhoon victims

WHEN the call for help comes, the PBA makes sure it delivers at crunch time. In the wake of recent tragedy that struck Southern Luzon in the aftermath of a series of killer storms, the PBA has launched "PBA, Ito ang Tulong Ko," an outreach campaign intended to provide aid and assistance to thousands of Filipinos whose lives and livelihood were ravaged by typhoons "Winnia" and "Yoyong." "This is a very unfortunate time that calls for all of us to unite and do whatever we can to help our countrymen," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala. Highlighting the humanitarian project, the PBA, in cooperation with its television partner, ABC-5, will put up a telethon on Sunday simultaneous with the games at the Araneta Coliseum. Players from the 10 PBA teams will be joining the telethon to answer calls and accept pledges from concerned sectors who want to donate cash or kind to families in Quezon province, the primary recipient of the PBA campaign. "This is a strong indication that apart from the league officials, our players also want to be counted and be involved in this kind of undertaking," Eala added.

'Rimat Ti Amianan' kiddies chess slated

ORGANIZERS of the 2004 "Rimat Ti Amianan" kiddies chess championships slated Dec. 18 and 19 in the city of San Fernando have started accepting entries. Children born after Jan. 1, 1990 and who have not participated in the World Youth Chess Championships may join the six-round Swiss System tournament where each player will have one hour each to complete the game. La Union Gov. Victor F. Ortega and San Fernando City Mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega are sponsoring this side event of the annual "Rimat Ti Amianan—Treasures of the North" fair which kicks off on Dec. 3. Chief organizer engineer Joseph A. Dumuk said trophies and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners in the boys' and girls' 14-, 12- and 10-year categories. Deadline for the submission of entries is on Dec. 15.

Intercollegiate badminton on IBC 13

THE CHAMPIONSHIP matches in the men's and ladies' divisions of the JVC Open Badminton Intercollegiate Championships will be aired tonight on IBC 13 starting at 9 p.m. University of Santo Tomas repulsed Far Eastern University, 2-1, to bag the men's plum while La Salle trounced Ateneo, 2-0, to run away with the ladies' crown in the tournament held at the Glorietta Activity Center. Solar Sports will also telecast the championship on Dec. 10 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Dec. 19 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

60 fights on tap in 'Incredibol' derby

SIXTY matches are on tap today in the four-day "Incredibol Na, Apodabol Pa 5-Cock Derby" which stakes a guaranteed cash prize of P2 million and an imported 3-door Pajero for the winners at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. The second day of eliminations starts at 5 p.m. Hosted by Rolly Ligon and presented by Thunderbird Power Feeds, the derby is Roligon's curtain-raiser to the 2004-2005 cockfighting season. Assassin Game Farm owner Dong Lacson, with his entry Snatcher, scored two wins during last Thursday's opener, sharing the day's championship honors with Benny Lado (El Negro & Russel), engineer Austria (San Vicente MGS), Ricky Castillo (E68-Thiabex), Paking Abanilla (Franz), Jimmy Atayde (MF Montanes), Edmund Yasay (Rancho Kling), Tos Reyes (Old Time Nevada II) and Toto Go (BSG). Two pointers in each of the three separate elimination days share the P80,000 day-champion prize. In addition, the two-pointer who posts the fastest win in its second match for each qualifying round gets an additional P30,000. Handler's prize is P150,000, with the gaffer winning P80,000. In the finals, the competitor who registers the fastest kill time in his last fight will drive home the 3-door Pajero. For inquiries, call Roligon at 8332275, 8331638 or 0920-3074225.

Black guest at Shock XT 10K Classic

COACH Norman Black graces the first Burlington Shock XT 10K Classic that fires off tomorrow with 1,000 runners expected to answer the starting gun at the Rajah Sulaiman Park in Malate, Manila. Black, former San Miguel Beer coach who is one of four who scored a grand slam in the pro league, will award the prizes and medals to the winners of the Media Runners and Sports Promotions-organized race that will start at 6 a.m. Participants are requested to check in at 5 a.m. for briefing. Burlington Industries Racers from major running groups, schools, companies are entered in the event which gave out free Burlington Shock XT socks. Reynaldo de los Reyes and Liza Yambao, are favored to win the men's and women's races. Cash prizes totaling P30,000 will go to the top finishers of the 10K and 5K races.

Burlington plans sports sponsorships

THE OFFICIAL socks of the Philippine Basketball Association and the chief supporter of the RP Youth team was awarded the prestigious "Superbrand" seal of excellence recently. Burlington Industries Phils. Inc. general manager Ruddy Tan expressed his company's gratitude for the public's patronage of Burlington socks and said the company has lined up sponsorships of several sporting events in foot racing, soccer and basketball. "Our valued clients can be assured that Burlington... will carry on its commitment for future generations of discriminating consumers," said Tan. Burlington, which recently launched Shock XT models, was cited by the Superbrands Council for its high quality, longevity and consumer confidence. Burlington is also behind the CMMA award-winning TV segment Burlington Basketball Tips, now known as Burlington Basketball 101, with Norman Black aired on ABC 5.



SMC GOLF: INQUIRER news editor Jun Engracia (third from left) won Class A runner-up honors in the San Miguel Corp. media golf invitational tournament at the Wack Wack west course recently. Close to 50 print and broadcast media practitioners joined the day of fun and fellowship in the annual meet. Also in photo are (from left) SMC media relations manager Jane Ulanes-Francisco, assistant vice president for corporate affairs Mon Santiago and manager for advocacy Robert Non. Other winners include INQUIRER Sports Features editor Ernie Gonzales (lowest gross), Lito Tacujan of The Star (Class A), Resty de Quiros of DZRH (Class B) and Ron de los Reyes of Auto Review (Class C).



FIL-AUSSIE GOLF

PLAYERS pose for posterity with former President Fidel V. Ramos, Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce, Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chair and former Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan and PABC chair Leo Dominguez at the launch of the first Philippines Australia Friendship Golf Tournament at the Manila Golf Club recently. The tournament, organized by the Philippines Australia Business Council (PABC), aims to promote camaraderie, strengthen trade, economic, technical and tourism relations between the two countries.

Iloilo, Cebu, NCR booters clinch U-19 semis berths

By Marian Baring, Cebu Daily News

DEFENDING champion Iloilo and host Cebu secured semifinal seats yesterday in the 2004 PFF/adidas U-19 Championship at the University of San Carlos pitch in Cebu City.

The Ilonggos, who battled the crack National Capital Region squad to a scoreless draw Thursday, whipped Masbate, 5-0, for their second win in Group B.

Cebu booked its place in the semifinals by holding Group A leader Davao to a 1-1 draw.

Davao's Glenn Bulaquina scored just seconds before the break, but the hosts equalized just three minutes into the second half through Michael Sharpe of Cebu International School.

Sharpe had also rescued the Cebuanos from embarrassment Thursday with an 80th minute goal against Dipolog.

NCR, running second behind Iloilo, completed the semifinal cast by crushing Iligan, 4-1.

After a scoreless first half, NCR, represented by De La Salle University, asserted itself with Mark Luzon scoring in the 74th and 79th minutes.

Francis Liza padded NCR's lead to 3-0 in the

81st before Iligan, bannered by DISU-Iligan, struck through Kevin Deanno. With time expiring, Sean Real Gepaya scored NCR's last goal.

The crossover semifinals tomorrow pit Iloilo against Cebu, with NCR facing Davao. The winners clash for the title on Monday.

Ruben Doctora scored twice while Robert Lecoto, Mark Ferrer and Antonio Albor had one goal each in Iloilo's romp over Masbate.

Masbate came into the match after salvaging a 1-1 draw with Iligan Thursday. Mark Marcaida struck for Masbate rescue with nine minutes to go to secure the tie. Carel Pancipanci earlier broke the ice for Iligan in the 44th minute.

North-South Luzon runner-up Baguio, humiliated in a 7-0 defeat to Davao, and winless West Mindanao champion Dipolog were scheduled to play in a Group A match later yesterday.

The event is managed and organized for the Philippine Football Federation by the Cebu Football Association.

Manila B, Cantilan keep chess lead

From page A24

Manila B and Cantilan have 3.5 points after four rounds in the weeklong NCFP tournament hosted and sponsored by Tagaytay City.

Cantilan faces sixth seed Muntinlupa City bannered by GM Nelson Mariano II and FIDE Master

Oliver Dimakiling while Manila B tackles its A counterpart in the fifth round.

Led by IMs Chito Garma and Barlo Nadera, Manila A beat 20th seed Baguio City, 3-1. Marlon Bernardino, contributor



ALL-FEMALE RIDERS SHINE

Four members of the all-female cycling team of David's Salon finish with the main pack in the 1st Cycling Search Invitational 2004 Criterium race held in Tarlac City recently, delivering on the team's promise to do better in the second leg of the event. National cyclist Marita Lucas, the lone female finisher in the first leg in Manila, also emerged as the best lady cyclist in Tarlac. The cyclists are also supported by Nike and Rudy Project. Photo shows Bing Alto and Ani de Leon right in the middle of the main pack.

8 teams vying in adidas Futsal tourney

EIGHT teams, led by host Iloilo, will see action in the 1st PFF-adidas Futsal Championship which kicks off tomorrow at the Iloilo Sports Complex covered gym in Iloilo City.

The four-day tourney is expected to be a big hit in the province.

Unlike regular soccer, the opposing teams will be fielding only five players each, including the goalkeeper, on a basketball-size court.

Aside from Iloilo, also joining the five-a-side event, according to tournament commissioner Pablo Araneta, are Cagayan-Misamis Oriental, Tarlac, Laguna, Oriental Mindoro, Rizal, Cebu and Bacolod.

Iloilo Gov. Niel D. Tupas, a longtime soccer fan, has provided the organizing Iloilo Football Association all the needed support to make the inaugural event a success.

"We're happy and proud to stage the tournament in our province," said Tupas. "I'm sure our kababayans will be there to watch this unique event which is close to our hearts."

The tournament is one of the events lined up by the Philippine Football Federation (PFF), headed by Johnny Romualdez, to further boost interest in soccer.

With the futsal tournament, Araneta, brother of former national players Mariano Jr. and Antonio, sees a bright future for some of the country's budding players.

Araneta, however, is hoping that other companies would extend their help in promoting not only this unique sport but also soccer, which is slowly getting back its prominence with the backing of adidas.

MNCAA crossover semis on

THE RACE is on for the right to play in the championship of the 1st MNCAA tournament as the crossover semifinal is played today at the RTU gym.

University of the Assumption-Pampana has a chance to enter the finals of all three events, holding the twice-to-beat advantage in junior and senior basketball and senior volleyball.

The top team in senior basketball, UA-Pam will take on Angelicum College at 2 p.m. while No. 1 Lourdes School of Quezon City battles no. 4 Immaculate Conception-Cavite at 12:30 p.m.



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Christmas Stars light up the entertainment firmament

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS YULETIDE season, we pay tribute to some sterling people in the local entertainment scene who have come up with significant contributions that have improved the lot of both entertainers and members of the audience alike.

Not many people qualify for this citation, because local show business has been attracting some self-centered, unprofessional and irresponsible types of late.

Blame it on the dog-eat-dog competition for popularity and ratings that has prompted many entertainers to "forget" their principles and traditional work ethic, so they and their productions can come out on top, reeking with the sweet-sour smell of success.

Blandishments

All the more reason, then, for us to single out the few people who have resolutely resisted the blandishments of self-aggrandizement and quickie, sleazy fame and fortune.

They serve as touchstones, as role models for other entertainers who want to do well by their audience and their own talent, so that it can remain uncorrupted, and can be used in the service of the viewing and listening public.

Thus, we call these inspiring stalwarts our Christmas Stars, because they light up the entertainment firmament. They show the way to responsible, creative and professional work for other show biz people to follow, with the millions who comprise the local entertainment audience as happy beneficiaries.

This issue, we lead off with the new leaders of the entertainment industry. They bring to local show business exciting innovations and dynamic commitment to responsible work that some entrenched oldtimers have compromised through the years:

Under the leadership of Laurice Guillen, the Film Development Council of the Philippines has boosted the production of better films with the tax rebates provided by the Cinema Evaluation Board. The FDCP has also initiated the Cinemalaya film festival and competition for new filmmakers, set to open next February at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Accomplishments

Over at the Film Academy of the Philippines, the new director general is actor-director Leo Martinez. Despite overt and covert opposition from some kapit-tuko oldtimers, he has succeeded in reforming the annual FAP Awards and rationalizing the Academy's procedures, among other accomplishments.

Mitch Valdes heads the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM), which assiduously upholds the welfare of Filipino musical talents, enables them to hold their ground against foreign imports, and professionalizes their relationship with producers.

The Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund) is led by Boots Anson-Roa, whose creative concepts have enabled the in-

dustry's welfare organization to raise more funds and thus be of better service to thousands of needy film people.

And Marilou Diaz-Abaya has put up a professional film school, the Asia Pacific Film Institute, using the 35mm color filmmaking equipment and post-production facilities of Ben Yalung's Cine Color. The new institute, which opens next January, raises local and regional film education to a higher level, and new filmmaking talents and viewers will surely benefit from it.

Martinez, Guillen, Valdes, Anson-Roa and Diaz-Abaya are lighting the way for better and more responsible entertainment in 2005. They are truly our Christmas Stars. Long may their sterling example glow!



VALDES. Upholds welfare of Filipino talents.



GUILLEN. Has boosted production of better movies.



MARTINEZ. Has reformed annual FAP Awards.



ANSON-ROA. Raises funds for needy industry workers.



DIAB-ABAYA. Has put up professional film institute.



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NOW SHOWING

Zellweger shines in tepid sequel

By Rito P. Asilo

"Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason"

D: Beeban Kidron
S: Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant

IN Beeban Kidron's slap-happy, sitcom-kitschy sequel to the hugely successful 2001 film adaptation of Helen Fielding's novel, Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger) realizes that "happily ever after" is a phrase not applicable to her and Mark Darcy's (Colin Firth) fairy-tale world: Finding true love is one thing, but keeping it secure and harmonious is another.

Set four weeks after the first film ends, our hapless, hefty heroine's source of neurosis this time is Mark's leggy, gorgeous legal-eagle associate (Jacinda Barrett)—a living, breathing and towering example of everything that she's not. Alas, she conveniently turns up every time Bridget's wobbly self-esteem needs a hearty serving of CPR.

Then, there's the irresistible ex-bf, Daniel Cleaver (the consistently charming Hugh Grant), who curiously ends up sharing an assignment with Bridget in Thailand.

Despite a tepid, derivative script that wheels out warmed-over plot retreads from the original, the film's exposition of often benefits from its cast's considerable acting merrit and collective charm. The tenaciously focused Zellweger and the reliable but under-utilized Firth save the movie from the script's unimaginative flirtations with slapstick humor and maudlin

ZELLWEGER/A2-2

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Wanted: Venue for digital films

By Rica Arevalo

THE ADVENT of modern technology has jumpstarted the production of digital films. Thanks to Cinemalaya and Cinema One, promising writers and directors are being given breaks to make films.

If the filmmakers rise to the occasion, the auteur theory popularized by the French new wave, will be duplicated here, because most of them are writing and directing their scripts. We're hoping that these developments will create a stronger "wave" that will brighten up the state of local cinema.

Showcase

Since digital projection in theaters is new here, we hope that the SM and Ayala cinema circuits will allot venues for digitally-produced films. Our filmmakers need a place to showcase their works.

TV and cable screenings are okay, but there's nothing better than the visual and auditory excitement brought by films shown on the big screen.



YAMAMOTO. Wrote the script for "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

The Cinemalaya finalists are solid in their vision to deliver unconventional and innovative films. Casting for the 10 films is in the final stages, through auditions, readings and acting workshops.

A respected veteran actor has agreed to play the lead role in one of the scripts. He was excited to learn that he would be working with new actors and dynamic production crews.

An award-winning actress familiar

with the independent film scene will play a major role in Emman dela Cruz' "Sarung Banggi."

Raymond Lee, who is helping produce Michiko Yamamoto's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," has just found a boy who can act effeminate to play the title role.

"Room Boy" filmmaker Aloy Adlawan is trying to raise more money for his film. "I'm working at Subic now, writing scripts para may pang-abono."

17 kids

Doy del Mundo's "Pepot Artista" is using 17 kids. He is asking the Manila Employment Promotion Division of the Department of Labor and Employment to speed up the process for securing permits for the children.

The Cinemalaya finalists will soon go full blast into principal photography to make the February 2005 screening target. For the finalists, though, if the organizers could move the festival to a later date, that'd be welcome news.

Zellweger shines in tepid sequel

From page A2-1

contrivances. But Bridget's tedious, non-stop whining sometimes get on your nerves!

This sequel, while occasionally hilarious and involving, falls over the edge due to frivolous, simplistic reasons. This time around, Bridget's diary reveals a lot—but, it doesn't really say much.

"Pa-Siyam"

D: Erik Matti
S: Yul Servo, Aubrey Miles

Siblings Nilo (Roderick Paulate), Denise (Cherry Pie Picache), Angel (Yul Servo), Sylvia (Maricar de Mesa) and their "special" sister Ruth (Aubrey Miles) return to their rundown ancestral home in the province when their mother Nerissa dies under mysterious circumstances.

They're raring to bury their long-neglected mother's remains pronto, and move on with their separate lives. But, everyone in town avoids



FIRTH, ZELLWEGER AND GRANT. Acting mettle and collective charm.

the eerie house like a plague.

When nobody—neither the petrified spirit questor Inang Albina (Lui Manansala) nor the morose parish priest Fr. Benjamin Garcia (Jaime Fabregas)—comes to pay his last respects for the departed woman, the siblings grudgingly decide to stay on until after they're done with the pa-siyam, the traditional nine-day novena for the soul of the departed.

Unfortunately, in this house, prayers don't stop things from going bump in the night—or day!

Matti is one of Philippine cinema's more daring filmmakers. His aptitude for structure and style is obvious, but something always hampers his movies' narrative flow—it's always spectacle over logic.

In "Pa-Siyam," the director's innovative eye manages to dramatize an engaging albeit worn-out storyline about a decrepit house haunted by tales of abuse and personal vendetta.

The film struggles to fill its nearly two-hour running time by adding the siblings' individual stories, and integrating stomach-churning, pulse-pounding scenes that involve cockroaches, puddles of blood, vomitus, fecal matter and urine, and a lurking presence that hounds every nook and cranny of the old mansion.

(Our major quibble with the film is a possible spoiler, though: None of the siblings needs to be a "C.S.I." fan to know that, if they just checked their mother's neck, they would have known what caused her death!)

Individual scenes succeed in estab-

lishing an eerie doom-and-gloom atmosphere, but the story's sluggish pace dilutes the unsettling mood. In fact, our first real jolt came only one hour and fifteen minutes into the movie's running time.

Like Jeffrey Jeturian's well-intentioned but snail-paced flick, "Minsan Pa" (both films recently merited the CEB's grade B), scenes that are seemingly shot in real time leave the narrative floating in borderline indulgence.

Why can't Pinoy movies spin brisker, more straightforward tales?

Yes, they need all the support we can give them, but patronage has to be deserved. Local films just have to do better.

"Saw"

D: James Wan
S: Cary Elwes, Monica Potter

Dr. Lawrence Gordon (Cary Elwes) wakes up in a decrepit chamber chained to a pipe, along with another victim whom he has to kill within eight hours—or else, his wife and daughter will be executed by the film's resident creepy serial killer, Jigsaw.

In between them, a dead body lies in a pool of blood straddling a .38 caliber revolver, a microcassette, and handsaws that can't break steel shackles, but are strong enough to cut through human flesh and bone.

James Wan's well-made Sundance and Toronto filmfest entry is sleek but manipulative—and explicitly gory!

Beneath the shimmer of its technical polish is a tenuous story that is as barren as the soul of its vile antagonist. If you think that there can be gloss in gross, then this film is for you.

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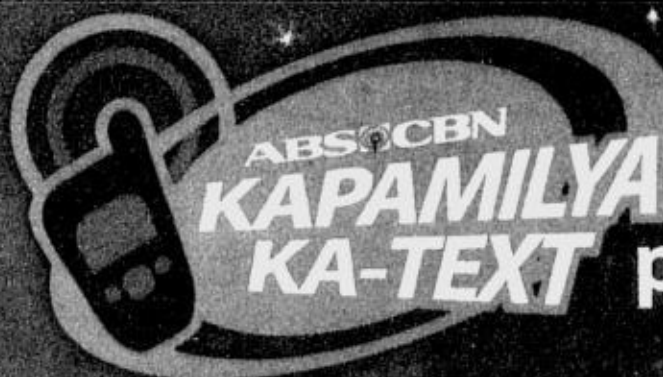
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Carla Humphries*	CARLA ON	Jodi Sta. Maria	SWEET ON	Mhyco Aquino	MHYCO ON	Sarita Perez de Tagle	SARITA ON
Carlo Aquino	CARLO ON	John Lapus	JOHN ON	Michelle Ayalde	MICHELLEA ON	Sergio Garcia	SERGIO ON
Carlos Agassi	CARLOS ON	John Prats	JOHN ON	Michelle Bayle	MICHELLE ON	Shaina Magdayao	SHAINA ON
Cherry Lou	CHEERRY ON	John Wayne Sace	JOHNWAYNE ON	Miko Aytona	MICO ON	Tanya Scaife	TANYA ON
Cholo Barretto	CHOLO ON			Miko Palanca	MIKO ON	Thammie Aliwalas	THAMMIE ON
Christian Vasquez	CHRISTIAN ON					Ya Chang	YACHANG ON



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ABS-CBN
INTERACTIVE

CSI MIAMI

Nothing succeeds like success

By Noelani Torre

SPIN-offs don't often prove to be as successful as the originals, but this doesn't appear to be the case with "CSI: Miami," the younger sibling of the incredibly successful TV series, "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

When the first show turned out to be a huge hit, the folks behind it realized that they were on to something really big. So, they immediately put together a show that was, well, more or less the same. Hey, if it ain't broke, don't fix it, right?

So now, we have "CSI: Miami" (there's a third one dubbed "CSI: New York"), a show that follows the same successful formula—solve a murder through clues, forensic science, and some super-cool devices.



CARUSO. Plays inscrutable boss Lt. Horatio Crane.

(hey, somebody has to play the inscrutable boss)—Lt. Horatio Crane, a role played by former "NYPD Blue" cop David Caruso.

The rest of the cast include Emily Procter (ballistic-specialist Calleigh Dusquene), Adam Rodriguez (underwater recovery expert Eric "Delko" Delektorsky), Rory Cochrane (street-smart investigator Tim Speedle), and Khandi Alexander (chief medical examiner Alex Woods).

Mixed feelings

The actors are competent enough, though we must say that we have mixed feelings about Caruso. We're not sure whether his cool, perpetually sunglasses-wearing look is effective, or

NOTHING/A2-6

Alligators

There are, of course, differences between the two shows, like location and cast. If casinos and show girls are regulars in "Vegas," alligators and a sultry, tropical atmosphere are the signature visual touches in "Miami." They managed to tie up the two shows quite smoothly in "Miami" 's pilot episode, "Cross-Jurisdictions," which—you guessed it—had the Vegas team link up with Miami.

There's also a Grissom-type character here

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3 **ALEXANDER**
1:40 pm 5:10 pm 8:40 pm

4 **NATIONAL TREASURE**
12:45 pm 3:30 pm 6:15 pm 9:00 pm

5 **SEED OF CHUCKY**
11:40 am 1:55 pm 4:10 pm 6:25 pm 8:40 pm

6 **PA SIYAM**
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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAHAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KERIDA / SUKOLAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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B	CLOSED
C	

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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (DTS)	SEED OF CHUCKY
CINEMA-12	HELLWOLF
CINEMA-14	PA SIYAM
CINEMA-15	BCUZ OF U

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CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
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2	ALEXANDER 11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:15 R-13
3	NATIONAL TREASURE 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20 GP
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ALEXANDER R13 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20	SEED OF CHUCKY R18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	POLAR EXPRESS GP 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40

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2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON) FS 11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM LMF 9:45 PM (PG-13)	4 NATIONAL TREASURE FS 11:00 AM 1:45 PM 4:30 PM 7:15 PM LMF 10:00 PM (GP)

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 ALEXANDER • THX 11:40 3:00 6:20 9:40	6 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
2 ALEXANDER 12:10 3:30 6:50 10:10	7 THE INCREDIBLES 11:40 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40
3 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00	8 HELLWOLF 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 PA-SIYAM 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	9 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
5 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 BCUZ OF U 11:45 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	5 NATIONAL TREASURE 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:40
2 HELLWOLF 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:50	6 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 ALEXANDER 2:40 6:05 9:40	7 RESERVE
4 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:25 10:00	

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280

1 BCUZ OF U 10:20 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10	5 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:55 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:30
2 HELLWOLF 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	6 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:30 12:05 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00
3 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:30 1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10	7 ALEXANDER 12:40 4:00 7:20 10:30
4 THE INCREDIBLES 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00	8 PA-SIYAM 10:25 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15	5 BRIDGET JONES 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	6 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:45 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:20
3 PA-SIYAM 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
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1 TAXI 12:00 2:55 5:50 8:45	3 BCUZ OF U 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 THE INCREDIBLES 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	4 DARKNESS 11:45 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30

CAINTA 240-4661

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2 ALEXANDER 10:35 1:55 5:15 8:35	4 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:50 5:30 8:10

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2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	2 ALEXANDER	2 SEED OF CHUCKY	2 ALEXANDER	2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON
3 SEED OF CHUCKY	3 THE POLAR EXPRESS	3 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	3 THE POLAR EXPRESS	3 FIRST DAUGHTER
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS	4 PASIYAM	4 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS	4 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 THE FORGOTTEN
5 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS		5 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	5 SEED OF CHUCKY	5 PASIYAM

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SATURDAY Special

A2-5

More onstage boobos recalled

By Behn Cervantes

IN 1968, Gari Tiongco asked me to direct a play to highlight the golden anniversary of the Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity at UP. I decided to stage "12 Angry Men" to showcase resident

members Angelo Castro Jr., Tony Gloria, Jake Marques, Abong Tayag and Mon Bausa.

A small role in the 13-character play is that of the guard. When he brings the 12 members of the jury in to the deliberation room, he has to

deliver one line: "Well, here you are." Then, in the second act, when the men's arguments become particularly heated, the head of the jury knocks on the locked door to ask for a piece of evidence. The guard opens the door and says, "Yes, what is it?"



CASTRO. Acted in Upsilon frat's staging of "12 Angry Men."

Since the part was minimal, actor Francis de la Fuente, who played the guard, got into the habit of yakking with whomever kept him company. A real door in the theater led to the "prop" door.

In one performance, somebody accidentally locked the real door, so Francis couldn't get to the "prop" door for his entrance!

There was great delay that resulted in awkward adlibs before the flustered actor finally managed to break open the door. Francis rushed to the stage door for his second line in the whole play.

Door

But by this time, he was already so stressed. As soon as he opened the door, he shouted, "Yeshh, wash-ti-yish?"

In 1958, the same fraternity staged an original musical, "Interior #14," based on a libretto by Nats Vergara and Teddy Gonzaga, lyrics by Christian Monsod, and music by Cris Gonzales and Dick Zamora. It was a rather trend-setting cavalcade where dialogue was often incorporated into songs.

Pregnant wife

I played a character greatly burdened by a pregnant wife, and living in a depressed area.

Vic Navasero portrayed a hoodlum, my character's old chum who tried to convince me to join his lucrative criminal activities. He argues that "money is everything" and proceeds to sing why.

Vic was a drinker, and on the eve of opening night, he spent hours imbibing the Cuatro Cantos while we were constructing the set and doing last-minute preparations. He was drinking more than usual because he was nervous about singing with a full orchestra.

Performance

The performance was going well enough until the "Money Is Everything" scene. Vic towered over me and declared "You must join me... (pregnant pause), because money is everything!"

The orchestra then crescendoed as he explained why money is all-important. But, as soon as he finished the first line, I saw his eyes blur. Then, undisguised fear and panic reflected in his hazel eyes. He had forgotten the lyrics! (To be concluded)

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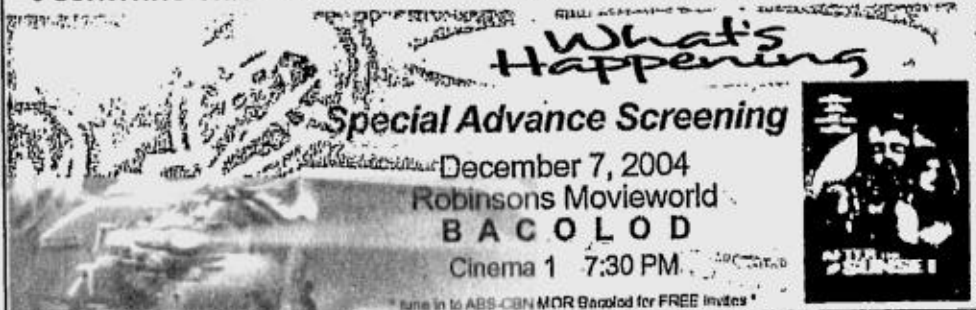
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Romance and tragedy fuel James Dean's mystique

FROM Kristen Rosalo: "I'm a big fan of 'Spider-Man's' James Franco. I read somewhere that he played the legendary James Dean in a film, and that he was so good in it. Please tell me more about Dean. Where can I find copies of 'Rebel Without a Cause' and his other films?"

Kristen, the year 2005 will mark the 50th death anniversary of one of Hollywood's legendary screen icons, James Dean—adolescent angst's poster boy. But, the romance and tragedy in his life continue to fuel his mystique, and his short but distinguished cinematic career still enthralled new generations of movie fans. (For his films, inquire at Video City outlets and at Astrovision in Megamall and other SM branches.)

Striking resemblance

In 2001, James Franco starred in Mark Rydell's TV biofilm, "James Dean," and earned acclaim (including a Golden Globe best actor statuette) for his *tour de force* performance and for his striking resemblance to the celebrated actor.

Recently, we read a wire article about 80-year-old actress

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Lauren Bacall ("How to Marry a Millionaire") who, during a promotional junket for "Birth," disagreed with a London reporter when he described co-star Nicole Kidman as a "legend." The feisty actress snapped: "She is not a legend! No one that young is."

But, Kidman is 37 years old. Apparently, Bacall must have forgotten about James Dean, who was only 24 when he died, or Marilyn Monroe for that matter—she was 36 when she was found dead (apparently due to a sleeping pill overdose).

James was raised on a farm by his aunt and uncle. His first taste of celebrity came about when he won rave reviews for his award-winning performance in a Broadway production of André Gide's "The Immoralist," where he played a blackmailing Algerian youth.

This was his ticket to Hollywood where, after five bit parts,

he was cast in unforgettable feature films: Elia Kazan's "East of Eden" and Nicholas Ray's "Rebel Without a Cause" in 1954 and George Stevens' "Giant" the following year.

During a fateful lull in the shooting of "Giant," Dean received a speeding ticket. Two hours and 15 minutes later, however, as if the preceding traffic incident wasn't enough warning, his Porsche collided with another car, and fatally ended a promising career and a tortured life that still haunt film lovers to this day. —At the tender age of 24, at that!

Safe driving

Ironically, two months before the tragedy struck, James filmed a highway safety commercial that had him expounding on the indispensability of safe driving: "I used to fly around quite a bit. I took a lot of unnecessary chances. Now, when I drive on the highway, I'm extra cautious." —A pity he didn't heed his own warning.

Contrary to his studio-sponsored, rumor-fueled "womanizing" image, Dean was really a faithful lover. The 5'8" actor was very much in love with Italian

actress Pier Angeli ("The Silver Chalice"), whom he met during the filming of "East of Eden," but whose mother was vehemently opposed to the relationship because James wasn't Catholic.

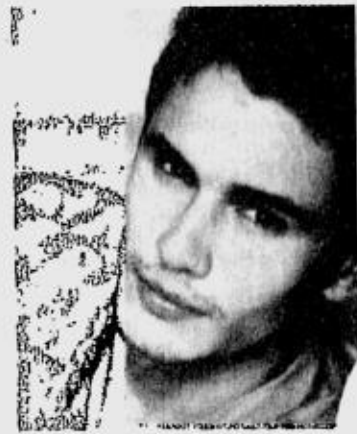
Angeli was consequently forced to marry singer Vic Damone in 1954. But, the union lasted for only four years.

In September 1971, exactly 16 years after Dean's death, Angeli was found dead due to sedative overdose.

Before she committed suicide, however, she wrote a message saying that James was the only man she had ever loved.



DEAN. Filmed a highway safety commercial two months before his fatal accident.



FRANCO. Won a Golden Globe for portraying the screen icon in 2001.

Nothing succeeds like success

From page A2-4

just funny in a bad kind of way. Grisom's inscrutability works for him, but Lt. Caine sometimes looks and sounds like he knows he's just putting on an act.

We have to admit that we prefer the original "CSI." Though "Miami" has a lot more drama and emotion than the first show (probably a by-product of all that tropical heat), we still can't quite connect with its characters.

Fascinating

The procedures are as fascinating as ever, even if they're unnecessarily graphic at times (it's as though the show were trying to live up to its own reputation), but the investigators always seem to look like daytime soap opera characters.

Still, all the other ingredients of a winning show are there—tight plots, unusual murders, novel scientific and investigative procedures, and clues, clues, clues.

We'd watch "CSI: Miami" because it's still a better show than most other TV programs out there, but if "CSI" were showing at the same time, we'd rather catch that one.

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New films generate special attention

By Nestor U. Torre

AMONG the many new films set to open in town in the next few months, we're particularly interested in "Shall We Dance," "Cinderella Man" and "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

"Shall We Dance," Richard Gere's latest starring, is adapted from a hit Japanese film about a conservative man whose life changes when he follows a beautiful woman to a dance studio, where he takes lessons from her.

Dream girl

Now remade as a Hollywood movie, "Shall We Dance" casts Gere as a workaholic lawyer whose marriage takes an unexpected twist when his dream girl (Jennifer Lopez) turns him into a great dancer.

What begins as a romantic comedy soon becomes an exhilarating tale about finding passion in the most unexpected places.

Gere is known for his dancing

pro prowess, so he's well cast in his role. And, of course, Lopez is a scorcher, both on the dance floor and on the silver screen.

She began her performing career as a dancer on "In Living Color," a comedy show on TV where Jim Carrey also got his start. As for Gere, he has danced in "Grease" onstage, and in "Chicago" on the big screen.

For his part, Russell Crowe plays a boxer in "Cinderella Man." Directed by Ron Howard, the film is based on the true story of James Braddock, a family man who takes up boxing in order to feed his children.

Unexpectedly, he becomes quite famous, and eventually goes up against champion Max Bauer. Renée Zellweger also stars.

This is an unusual role for Crowe to play, so the film could end up as a sleeper hit—while winning acting citations for him, as well.

Finally, the famous "Chronicles of Narnia" novels by C.S. Lewis have been belatedly discovered by the film world. The first novel to be filmed is

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

The novel is familiar to Filipinos because it's been adapted as a stage musical presented here by Trumpets.

This fantasy adventure is about a war between good and evil, pitting the magnificent lion Aslan against the forces of darkness in the magical world of Narnia.

Dark powers

A White Witch has used her dark powers to keep Narnia in winter for 100 years. But, it's foretold that four humans will be able to help Aslan break the spell.

When the siblings Lucy, Susan, Edmund and Peter discover the magic of Narnia by entering the enchanted world through a wardrobe (cabinet), the stage is set for a classic battle of epic proportions.

It is hoped that the "Chronicles of Narnia" series will turn out to be as magical and successful as the "Lord of the Rings" and "Harry Potter" film franchises.

"THE HOLLYWOOD MOM'S MYSTERY."
About the death of a TV star's wife.



Makeup artists to the stars

RUSTAN Marketing Corp., exclusive distributor of Max Factor in the Philippines, recently sponsored the premiere of "Bridget Jones' Diary 2."

Max Factor's association with the popular romantic comedy (now showing in Metro Manila) comes from its makeup artist, Graham Johnston, who is under contract with Max Factor as its spokesperson.

His work on the movie emphasizes Max Factor's tagline—"the makeup of makeup artists"—chosen to establish Max Factor as the cosmetics brand that can make a woman look like a movie star.

Max Factor's contract makeup artists—Johnston, Richard Dean and Sarah Monzani—have made other stars extra-beautiful on the big screen in prestige projects in the past few years.

The films they have worked on include "Mona Lisa Smile" with Julia Roberts, Julia Stiles, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Kirsten Dunst; "Chicago" with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Renée Zellweger, and the first "Bridget Jones' Diary" with Zellweger.

'Cabaret' at Music Museum

The New Voice Company's exciting and provocative production of the popular musical, "Cabaret," will have its last performance at Music Museum at 8 p.m. today.

The hit musical, directed by Monique Wilson and Rito Asilo, topbills standout performers led by Wilson, Jamie Wilson, Joy Virata, Leo Rialp, Bongoy Manahan, John Mulhall and Lynn Sherman. Not to be missed. Call 896-5497.

Happy holidays on Hallmark

The Hallmark Channel, "Where great stories come to life," has come up with December viewing treats that are a lively mix of heart-

warming movies and mysterious tales:

On Dec. 5, John Nettles reprises his role as DCI Barnaby in "Midsomer Murders: Garden of Death," and finds himself unearthing skeletons in a family's closet. Barnaby investigates some murders and finds deep-seated motives lurking in a daughter's personal vendetta.

Dec. 9, "The Hollywood Mom's Mystery" is about the death of a TV star's wife. A book illustrator's husband is tagged as the prime suspect, so she plays sleuth to clear his name.

Dec. 12, another "Midsomer Murders" movie, "Ring Out Your Dead," is about a modern-day killing that turns out to be linked to a murder that occurred way back in 1860!

Dec. 16, "Virtual Mom" is about a recently divorced woman who is determined to be the best mother to her teenage daughter, but the challenge of starting a new job in a new town exhausts her. A computer glitch solves her problem by transforming her into her 13-year-old self, so the mother and her daughter happily discover that they have a lot in common!

Movies on TV

On HBO, Dec. 4 at 9:30 a.m., "Getting There." 12:30 p.m., "Maid in Manhattan." 9 p.m., "Head of State." Dec. 5 at 12:45 p.m., "Carnivale: Insomnia." 8 p.m., "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." Dec. 6 at 11:25 a.m., "The Mirror Has Two Faces." 3 p.m., "Irreconcilable Differences." Dec. 7 at 10:45 a.m., "Frances."

On Cinemax, Dec. 4 at 9:15 a.m., "Strictly Ballroom" 9 p.m., "Gotcha!" Dec. 5 at 6:30 a.m., "To Sir, With Love." 7 p.m., "Panic Room." Dec. 6 at 11:30 a.m., "Black Hawk Down." 9 p.m., "Spy Game." Dec. 7 at 6 a.m., "Cool Hand Luke." 12:30 p.m., "Pillow Talk." 9 p.m., "A Few Good Men."

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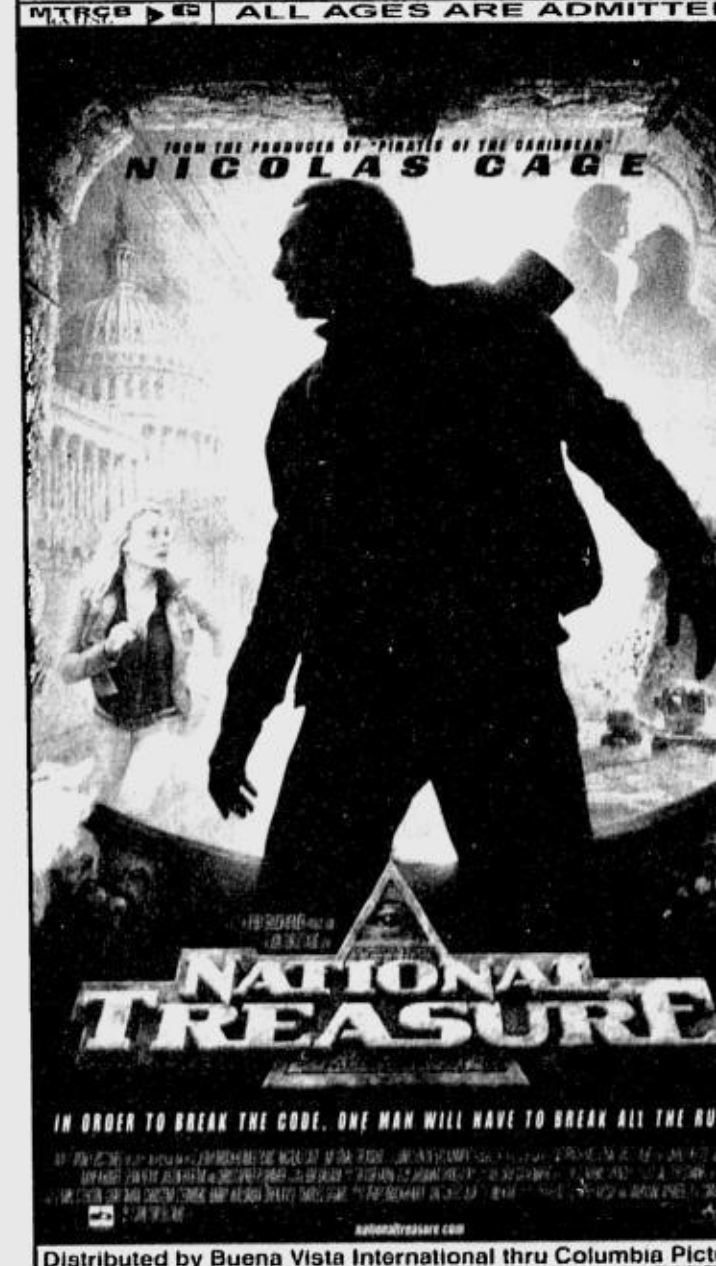
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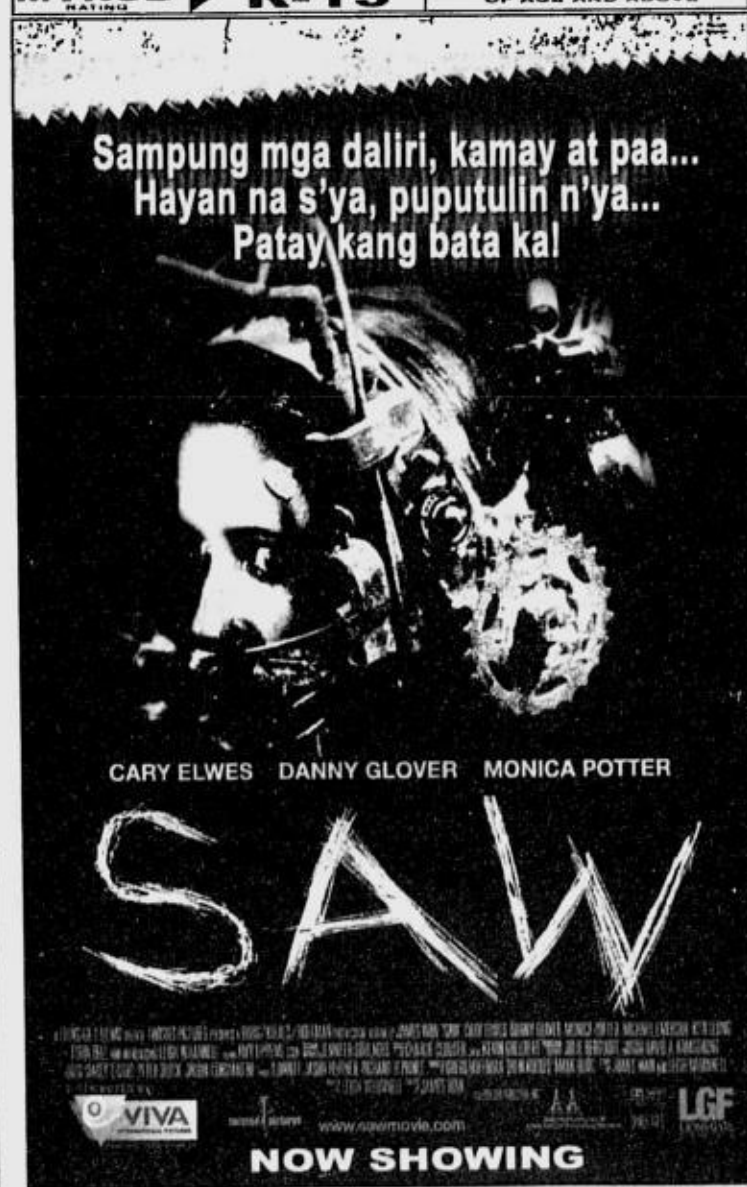
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ZELLWEGER. Made up by Max Factor's Graham Johnston in the "Bridget Jones" films.

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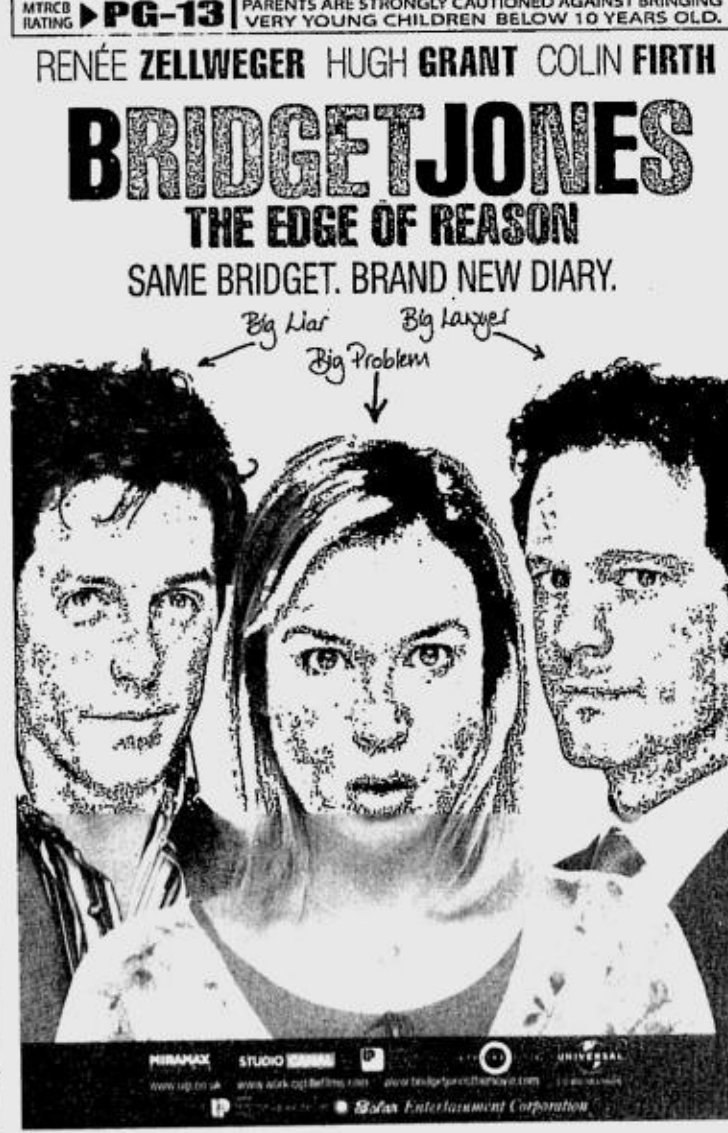
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From the creators of The Ring and Ju-On: The Grudge 2



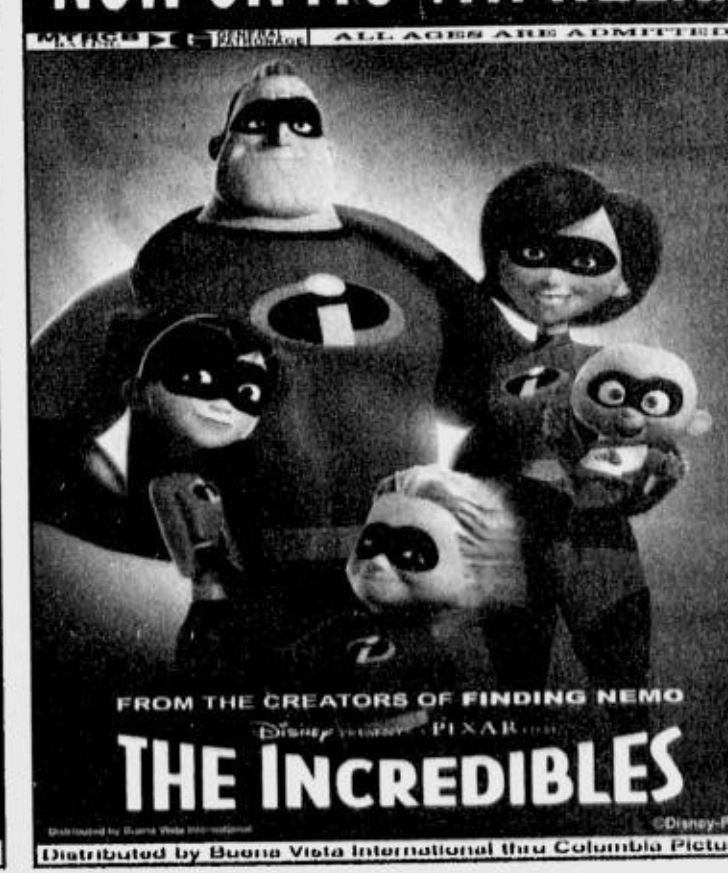
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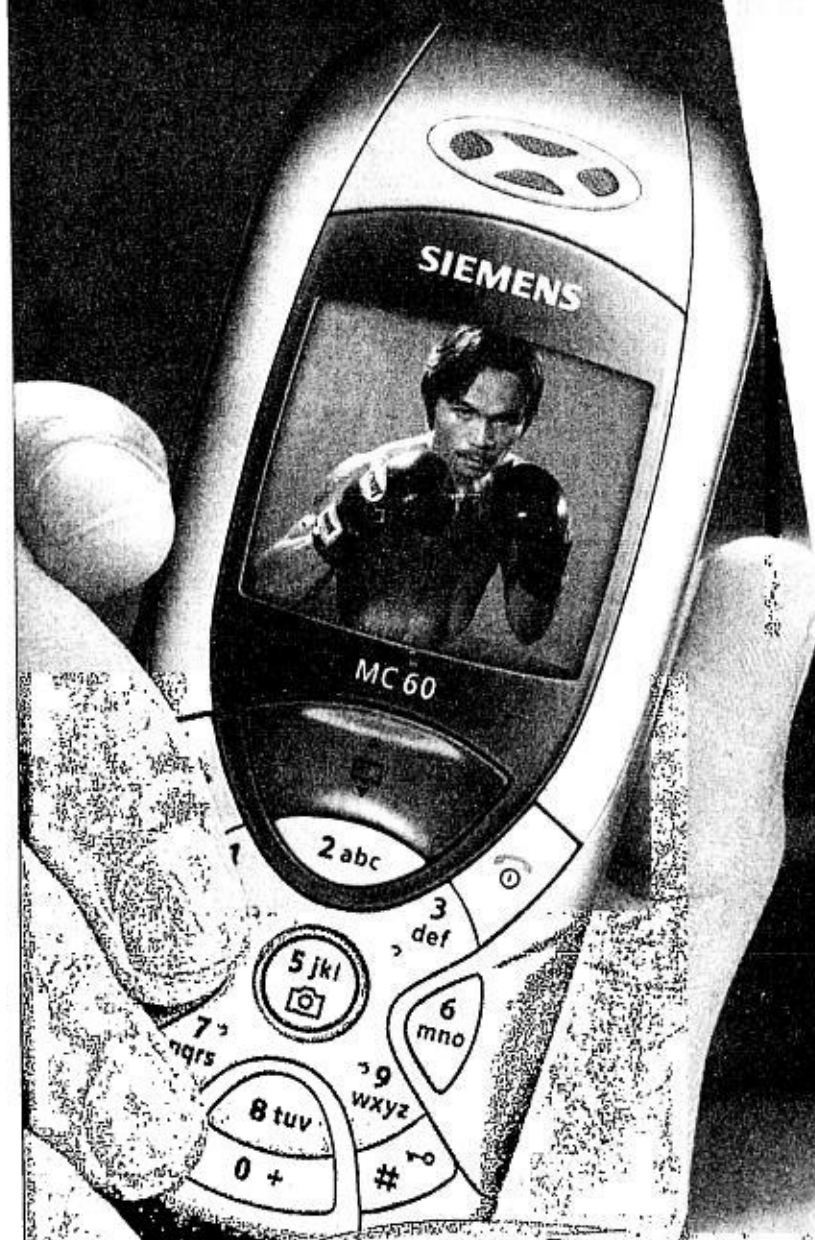
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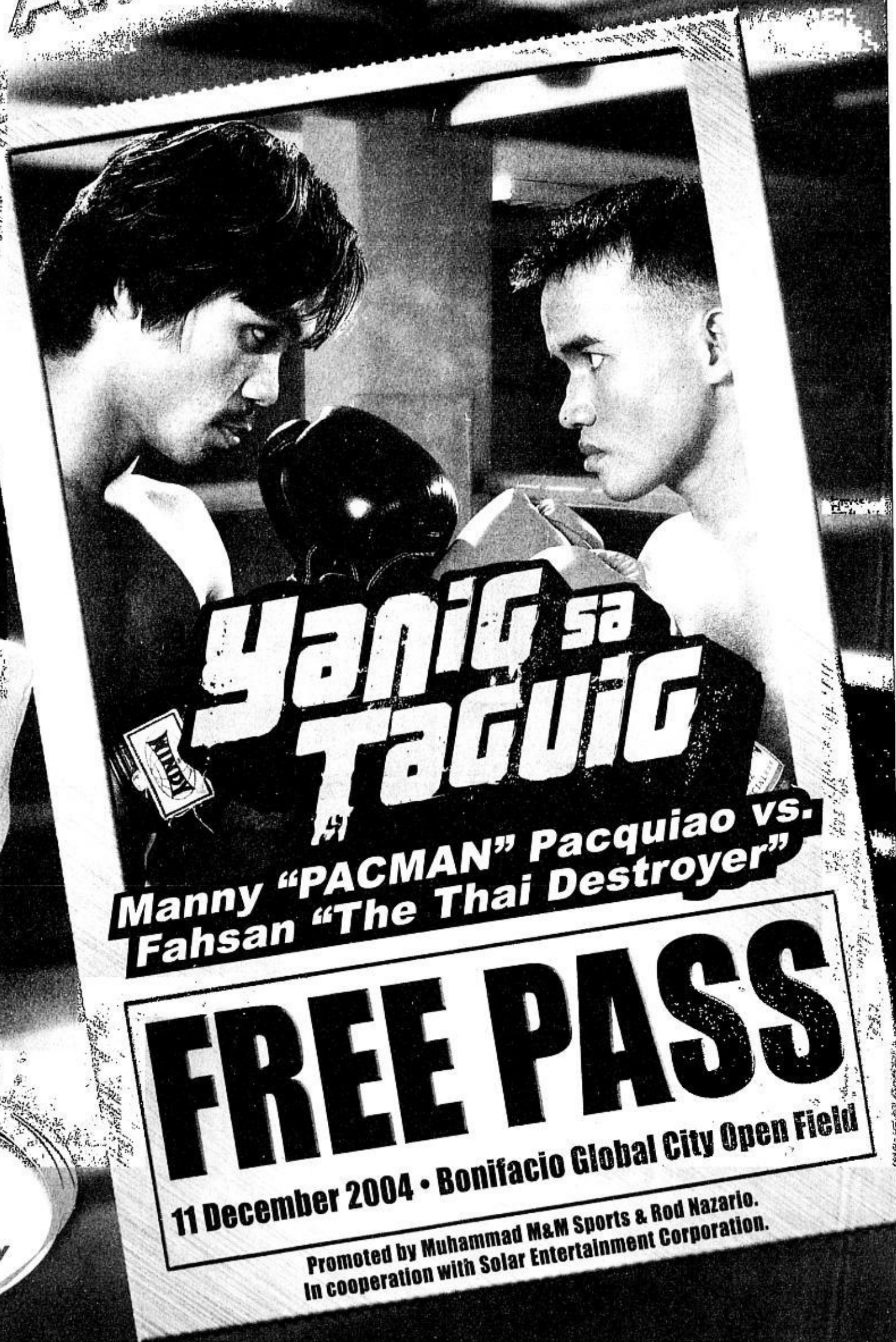
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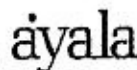
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SATURDAY Special

Carolino's 'Bunso' a hit in Amsterdam festival

By Rica Arevalo

WATCH out for the Philippine premiere of Ditsi Carolino's latest work, "Bunso" (The Youngest), at the UP Film Institute this Friday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

In the documentary, we meet Tony, 13, Diesel, 11 and Tisoy aka Bunso, 11. They are detained in a jail for adult criminals in the Visayas. "Bunso" is a nickname for youth offenders inside the prison.

Carolino is in her element as she stays in the background, documenting real-life prison life and letting her subjects do the talking. Her cinema verité style makes us see her subjects behaving in the most genuine way, despite the presence of her camera.

Streetchild

Tony has an alcoholic, pregnant mother and an abusive, violent father. He is an alleged drug courier who stole money from rich Chinese rice traders. Diesel is a streetchild who used to hang out in malls. He sang the Jubilee song at intersections to get tips from passersby, and sometimes worked as a watch-your-car boy.

He stole P40 and three cans of sardines because he was hungry. The owner was willing not to press charges, but Diesel's father insisted that he stay in jail.

Tisoy is the youngest and funniest of all. He

counts the many Fridays promised him until he can be a free "man." He even has a dramatic moment with his mother, complaining about why he was not visited on his birthday. But, his mother keeps telling him that he's "possessed" by the devil.

SRO crowds

"Bunso" had its world premiere at the recently concluded International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), where Carolino also sat in the jury for the First Appearance program. All three screenings had Standing Room Only (SRO) crowds, making "Bunso" one of the documentary festival's most popular and acclaimed films.

If there is a drive to revitalize the Visayan cinema, "Bunso" should be counted in because the dialogue throughout the 62-minute documentary is in the Visayan dialect.

This documentary should ignite anger, frustration and, hopefully, action on the part of viewers who want to help all the bunso in our jails. Every government official should see this documentary to see how badly our prisons are run.

This is an advocacy film about juvenile justice. For Carolino to make her films, she has had to work with NGOs like the Consuelo Foundation and Unicef. Good thing, there are groups that support her vision. Let's hope local TV networks air this documentary soon!



DITSI Carolino's latest documentary on prison life should ignite anger, frustration and, hopefully, action.

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37 short films make it to Cinemalaya tilt

By Nestor U. Torre

NEXT February, the first Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival will unveil at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, as mounted by the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the CCP and the UP Film Institute.

Its two competitions for new filmmakers, the full-length and short narrative tilts, are proceeding apace, the first having already chosen its 10 finalists, and the latter set to announce its finalists on Dec. 15.

Unlike the full-length tilt, the short (20-minute) narrative competition is evaluating entries on the basis, not of their screenplays, but of the finished short digital productions themselves.

200 storylines

Almost 200 storylines were initially submitted for consideration, but only 37 finished movies were viewed by the board of judges. The jurors will select the 10 best short narratives, which will be screened at the festival in February. One winner will subsequently win the top P200,000 cash prize.

The 37 short narrative films currently being screened by the board of judges are "Alimom" by Rommel Tolentino, "Ang Kapalaran ni Virgin Mano" by Agustin Sugatan Jr., "Ang Manunubos" by Hector M. Fernandez Jr., "Aninag" by Rianne Hill Soriano, "Babae" by Sigrid Andrea Bernardo, "Bedspacer" by Alessandro Quen, "Benny" by Lou Martin Lazaro, "Blood Bank" by Pam Miras, "Contre Temps" by Paul Morales, "Deadletter" by Grace Tagum Orbon, "Gantsilyo" by Mia A. Buenaventura,

'Gift Wrap'

"Gift Wrap" by Bryan Lim, "Himpapawid" by Jose Milos Curameng, "Kanya-kanya Lang Yan" by Lady Michelle Sering, "Kapitbahay" by Ma. Pamela Ovejas, "Kultado" by Lawrence Fajardo,

"Mansyon" by Joel Ruiz, "Marawal" by Valerie Rose Del Rosario, "Obit" by Melchor Escarcha, "Obra" by Chris Manjares, "Oras Ko Na Ba?" by Bert Sulat Jr., "Panaginipan" by Anna Isabelle Matutina,

"Pearl Drive" by Kamil Roxas, "Pila" by Fernando S. Calleja, Jr., "Ritwal" by Lidyo Cyrus Celdran, "Sa Huli ang Dagundong" by Ronald Quimson, "Sabog at Gulaman" by Dodos dela Cruz, "Sales Work" by Rhona Ramos, "Sikyo" by Frederick dela Cruz, "Sulat Ka Agad, Ha?" by

Alan Olaco, "The Good Deed" by Ruth and Ruby Pe Palileo,

"The Show Must Go On" by Bong Embile Jr., "The Ukay-Ukay Queen" by Ramon Felipe Sarmiento, "Third Person" by McMurphy Quito, "Tulak" by Celeste V. Lumasak, and "Una Madre" by Idda Aguilar.

Narrative

There have been many short film competitions in the past, but what makes the Cinemalaya tilt different is the fact that it's narrative oriented. This is because the festival would like to help discover film writers and directors who can "graduate" to mainstream filmmaking, where storytelling is the preferred mode.

Since the mainstream theater circuit is where the bulk of moviegoers is to be found, new talents who start "short" but eventually go full-length will be able to connect with the greatest number of viewers, who will benefit from their fresh cinematic inputs.

Let's hope that Cinemalaya attains these laudable objectives. On Dec. 15, we'll know who the 10 short narrative finalists are.

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Making choices

MY spiritual teacher once spoke to a mother who carelessly allowed her young daughter to attend a wild party where girls were singing materialistic songs.

Pretty soon, the audience got riled up, other girls jumped on-stage and danced uninhibitedly while men howled like dogs.

My teacher, Jagad Guru, advised the parent: "A mother is supposed to be a protector, not an enemy. Why did you let your daughter stick her head in an alligator's mouth? The path to hell is not a rough voice, it is a sweet voice singing materialistic songs."

Honeybee or fly

Turning around, he then spoke to the girl and said: "A person has a choice. You're either going to be a honeybee or a fly. The honeybee does not land on stool, the fly does. Sometimes, the fly tries to land on honey, but he ends up contaminating it."

There are two kinds of parties: In the transcendental party, people derive

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MAKING/A3-2

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**Rigid auditions reveal . . .**

From page A3-4

vibrancy and exceptionally high caliber of theater culture in the Philippines! They were gushing over this "treasure trove" of talent. The lead panelists averred that they never saw such a high percentage of talent even in their US auditions. A glowing sense of pride welled up inside me. I was at a loss for words!

Optimistic

What next? It's waiting time for all the call-back artists. They will compete with musicians and vocalists from the US, Canada, Australia and Asian cities who are just as eager to get hired. It is a level playing field, and final selections will be made on the basis of who

among the candidates are most suited for each job.

The panel members have been doing this for 30 years—they know exactly what they are looking for. I am quite optimistic about how things will turn out for the Filipino candidates. (This story continues in January.)

With the abundance of talented artists here, I don't expect a drain in our local talent pool. On the contrary, foreign job opportunities could pave the way for the emergence and development of future generations of artists who will be recognized not only in the Philippines, but on the global stage, as well.

No sparks and magic in Pops' new show

By Noelani Torre

POPS Fernandez has a new show, and yes, Martin's in it. Or, he was in one episode, anyway—and we hope that that was his last appearance because the "issue" of Pops and Martin becoming a couple again has been discussed to death and is now terribly tedious. This new show, "Pops!" (they must have thought hard about the title, huh), airs every Monday, 10 p.m. on ABC-5.

We caught the first episode (where Martin Nievera was the sole guest), and it didn't look particularly promising. Let's begin with the set: Done in pink, purple, salmon and pastels, it reminded us of a '60s-'70s TV set (or living room). That can be charming when done right, but in this case, it looked old.

Gift of gab

The band, Escape, gave us a ho-hum opening number which, of course, the host had to sing in. Pops isn't really known for her gift of gab, and we find out why five minutes into the show. She speaks clearly enough, and she can articulate her thoughts fairly well, but she was rather dry.

She doesn't connect with the viewer

**FERNANDEZ.** Can articulate her thoughts well.

(not that many Pinoy talk show hosts do), and she isn't particularly funny. Most of the atmosphere-lightening laughs in this episode were courtesy of the quicker, more loquacious Martin.

We're not saying that talk show hosts have to be funny all the time, but a flash of wit now and then would be great. After all, this is "Pops!" (note the exclamation point), not a political talk show, or one of those dreary shows hosted by politicians or their spouses.

Unspoken rule

The fact that the show only had one guest also contributed to our boredom. In accordance with Philippine television's unspoken "rule" of

milking something for all its worth, the first guest had to be Martin.

We don't know about you, but we're tired of a topic that is dated—and is none of our business to begin with. This, as well as variations on its theme, was all that they talked about throughout the entire 60 minutes of the show!

Relationship

So, we hear them talking about themselves, about their relationship or lack thereof, etc. After some time, we want to climb inside the TV set and tell them to have their conversation behind closed doors, without the camera. Do you really want to hear something like: Pops: "Have there been sparks and magic?" Martin: "Only with you." Sheesh.

The show is rather monotonous, even when they move to a table for a supposed mock date. And when Pops has Martin talk about his gig in Las Vegas, we don't even get to see clips of his performance there.

The monotony is broken by song numbers—Martin sings one, she sings one, they sing a duet with the band. It's not enough, however, to endow the show with "sparks and magic."

Making choices

From page A3-1

happiness from glorifying and pleasing the Supreme Being. The other party, the materialistic sort, only has emptiness, where happiness is fleeting.

Your spiritual life is all you've got. Stay away from people who encourage you to go to these parties. They are not your friends if they encourage your de-

sire to engage in materialistic cravings. They are your worst enemies.

Illusory energy is very powerful. You're going to need inner strength and determination, which should come from your desire to serve the Supreme Lord. The desire to please God is the higher state. You then develop a natural revulsion to mundane activities.

By the end of the conversation, the girl was crying out of sincere regret. She realized she needed to be more careful. By listening to someone who was concerned about her spiritual welfare, she and her mother learned a valuable lesson in making important choices.

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Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

- 5 Seed of Chucky
- 6 Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason
- 7 Alexander

Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Customer Service Hotline: 886-7516

5:00 pm		SATURDAYS		6:00 pm															
																			
TV GUIDE																			
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Ek Channel	Value Vision	Y Spok	Ningning: The Hottest Hits	Born Diva	Yan Ang Pinoy	TV Patrol	Mogandang Gabi Bayan: Muslim Cup 2003	Star Cinema Presents	Gold & Glory In Green: Sing Galing	Home Along The Airport	Kontrobersyal	Sports Unlimited						
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision	Value Vision
ABC 5	Quantum Showcases	The Basketball Show	Soccer Showdown: Wish Ko Lang	Wag Makurap (4:45 PM)	Loren	Diretsahan	Boy's Funniest Videos	Extra Challenge	Imbestador (8:15 PM) JAG	Saturday Night Playhouse: Bag	Idol Ko Si Kap	Marvel & Ariel	ASCinema	Out					
GMA 7	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek	Star Trek
RPN 9	BIR	Blyahong Lang!	JR Newswatch	Whatts Up Day?	Harapuhay: Overload	Home Shopping Network: Wwe Raw	WWE Confidential	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: My Life As A Teenage Robot	Knock First	Game Plan	Rated X	30 Seconds To Fame: Dark Angel	World News	World Sport	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News
IBC 13	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network
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MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Backstage	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show
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Studio 23	Urban MYX	MYX Backstage	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show	Pop MYX: The Today Show
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Star World	Inspector Gadget	Stupid Behavior: Caught On Tape	When Hidden Cameras Attack: World Business This Week	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News
CHN	Diplomatic License	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News
National Geographic	On Assignment	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile	Big Bite Nile
Solar Sports	FIVB Beach World Tour: Klamart	Radical: Suburban	The Brady Bunch Movie (3:50 PM)	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	HGTV Special	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban
HBO	Date With Design	HGTV Special	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban	Radical: Suburban
Star Movies	High Crimes (2:45 PM)	New Scary & Scary: Doo	The Detective Squad	Mucha Lucha	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?
Cartoon Network	New Scary & Scary: Doo	The Detective Squad	Mucha Lucha	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?
ESPN	New Scary & Scary: Doo	The Detective Squad	Mucha Lucha	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?	What's New Scary?
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Subrina's Secret: Life	Uon King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack: Life	Viva S Club	Makin' Mystery: Thrill, So Rusty	Dave The Barbarian: Phil Of The Future	Chameleon	Alien Hunter	Goldfish	Hollywood: Homeless	Book Of Ruth (10:35 PM)	Zero Hour						
Cinemax	Potatoes And Dragons	Subrina's Secret: Life	Uon King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack: Life	Viva S Club	Makin' Mystery: Thrill, So Rusty	Dave The Barbarian: Phil Of The Future	Chameleon	Alien Hunter	Goldfish	Hollywood: Homeless	Book Of Ruth (10:35 PM)	Zero Hour						
Hallmark Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Subrina's Secret: Life	Uon King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack: Life	Viva S Club	Makin' Mystery: Thrill, So Rusty	Dave The Barbarian: Phil Of The Future	Chameleon	Alien Hunter	Goldfish	Hollywood: Homeless	Book Of Ruth (10:35 PM)	Zero Hour						
Discovery Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Subrina's Secret: Life	Uon King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack: Life	Viva S Club	Makin' Mystery: Thrill, So Rusty	Dave The Barbarian: Phil Of The Future	Chameleon	Alien Hunter	Goldfish	Hollywood: Homeless	Book Of Ruth (10:35 PM)	Zero Hour						
MTV Philippines	Potatoes And Dragons	Subrina's Secret: Life	Uon King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack: Life	Viva S Club	Makin' Mystery: Thrill, So Rusty	Dave The Barbarian: Phil Of The Future	Chameleon	Alien Hunter	Goldfish	Hollywood: Homeless	Book Of Ruth (10:35 PM)	Zero Hour						
Sports Plus	Potatoes And Dragons	Subrina's Secret: Life	Uon King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack: Life	Viva S Club	Makin' Mystery: Thrill, So Rusty	Dave The Barbarian: Phil Of The Future	Chameleon	Alien Hunter	Goldfish	Hollywood: Homeless	Book Of Ruth (10:35 PM)	Zero Hour						
EWTN	Potatoes And Dragons	Subrina's Secret: Life	Uon King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack: Life	Viva S Club	Makin' Mystery: Thrill, So Rusty	Dave The Barbarian: Phil Of The Future	Chameleon	Alien Hunter	Goldfish	Hollywood: Homeless	Book Of Ruth (10:35 PM)	Zero Hour						

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Dito lang sa



CEB grants rebates to three outstanding films

By Nestor U. Torre

DESPITE the local movie industry's many problems, Film Year 2004 is ending on a positive note, with three current films having been graded A ("Santa Santita") and B ("Minsan Pa," "Pa-Siyam") by the Cinema Evaluation Board of the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

Prestige

This is an unusually pleasant, if unexpected, development, because the CEB's A and B grades are quality citations prized by producers, not only for their attendant prestige, but also for the amusement tax rebates that come along with them.

A grade of A entitles the film being cited to 100-percent amusement tax rebate, while a



PANGANIBAN, YLLANA AND PICACHE. Their current starrers ("Santa Santita," "Minsan Pa" and "Pa-Siyam," respectively) have received quality citations prized by producers.

grade of B means a 65-percent rebate. This could mean an additional income of millions of pesos, if a film is a hit.

This is the CEB and the Film Development Council's way of encouraging producers to make better movies, ultimately for the benefit of Filipino viewers.

Other favorable grades may be given before the year is over,

when some of the official entries to the Dec. 25 Metro Manila Film Festival are submitted for grading to the CEB.

Good year

So, all in all, Film Year 2004 could end up as a relatively good year for local movies, despite dire predictions to the contrary articulated some months ago.

What does it take for a movie to get a grade of B? What about a grade of A? A look into CEB members' notes on the three graded films gives us some answers:

Laurice Guillen's "Santa Santita," which got an A, is praised by CEB members for its "grand intention," which is well realized by the "audacious" director, who is in "full control of her medium and vision."

Also deemed exceptional is the production's "confident use of the HD (high definition) camera, skillful handling of performers, good storytelling, and coherence."

Technical elements were described as outstanding—the cinematography, the "lovely color and lighting," the film's "gritty images, which reflect the darkness of the characters' souls."

The screenplay was "excellently written" and "thought-provoking," and the performances were uniformly commendable.

Competent and intelligent

What about "Minsan Pa," which got a grade of "B"? It was praised by CEB members for being "a competent and intelligent film that brings back the use of the Visayan language in mainstream Filipino cinema."

Director Jeffrey Jeturian's work was deemed outstanding, and the story was described as "unconventional." A member particularly liked "the use of the camera that fell into the sea as the central metaphor of the film."

Lack of selectivity

But, there were notes on the film's length and occasional lack of selectivity in the details that it chose to present. There were also less than uniformly enthusiastic notes on sound, cinematography and performances.

On the whole, however, the film "brought forth the positive values of the Filipino," and "the ending was, fortunately, unconventional as well. The script provided a believable and logical resolution, and satisfying answers to the questions and issues confronting its protagonist."

Abangan ang mga paboritong comedy STARS

Magbilang ng STAR Parols

Manalo at mag-feeling STAR!

Manood lang ng ABS-CBN Kapamilya comedy programs at manalo ng P1,500 worth of GIFT COUPONS at bonus prizes na major appliances mula sa PROMAC at MINAMI kung tama ang sagot!

Para sumali, magregister muna. LIBRE LANG!

1 Txt COMEDY <name,address> to 2366.

To earn an entry, mag-download ng picture message.



Available to Globe, Touch Mobile & Sun Cellular subscribers P15/download. Earn up to 3 entries per game date. Cut-off time: 12nn of the following day after airing of comedy show. Promo ends December 20, 2004.



3 Sa bawat comedy show mula Dec.1 hanggang 29 bilangin kung ilang parol ang isasabit ng cast.

I-text agad ang sagot.

<program keyword> space <your answer> and send to 2366.

4 Examples:

OKFINE <3> for OK Fine Whatever

BIDA <2> for Bida si Mister Bida si Mela

YESYES <4> for Yes Yes Show

HOMEALONG <3> for Home Along Da Riles

TANGING <5> for Ang Tanging Ina

Bawat show, may chance kang manalo!
Tuloy - tuloy ang panalo at saya sa Kapamilya Comedy!



Channel 5 showcases masterworks in 'ABCinema'

By Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL film buffs now have another source of good movies: ABC-5 has launched "ABCinema," a TV showcase for art films and classics, telecast every Saturday at 10:30 p.m.

The weekly film showing is a pet project of ABC president Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, whose support for artistic endeavors is widely known and appreciated.

Cojuangco believes that cinema is one of the modern world's great art forms. As such, it has the power to transform and illuminate lives, to profoundly move us, teach us about human nature, introduce us to other cultures, and

change the way we see the world.

Yes, film can do that—and more. But, the problem here has long been the availability of the medium's masterworks, the seminal productions that best vivify the movies' strongest suits.

Search

With "ABCinema" now being screened every Saturday, the search for those masterworks has been made easier. Thanks, too, to ABC's VP for Program Acquisition Vic Vianzon, who has been instructed by Cojuangco to source foreign and local movie classics.

Vianzon's search has taken him to the Philippine Information Agency, the Cultural Center of the



COJUANGCO. His support for artistic endeavors is widely known and appreciated.

Philippines, the UP Film Institute, Mowelfund, and the film vaults of Sampaguita, LVN and Premiere Productions.

For foreign titles, Vianzon has gone beyond the usual studio and licensing sources, and has linked

up with the embassies of China, France, Germany, India and Spain.

On his trips abroad, Vianzon continues to forge links with sources of both classic films and the best works of today's filmmakers.

He recently attended the international media congress organized in Italy by the Pocolare Movement, and the contacts he made there should result to an even richer group of outstanding movies that we'll get to see on "ABCinema" in the near future.

Moving spirit

For his part, Cojuangco has been involved in spreading the good word about film in other ways, aside from being the moving spirit

behind "ABCinema." He is also one of the biggest supporters of the first Cinamalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival slated to unfold at the CCP in February 2005.

The festival and competition seek to give new filmmakers a chance to demonstrate their abilities in both the short (20-minute) and full-length narrative (90-minute) formats.

The idea is to make it easier for new writers and directors to show what they can do in the digital mode, in the hope of attracting the attention of movie producers, who could commission them to make feature-length films for the mainstream market.

The hope is that major new

filmmaking talents will be discovered, so that the mainstream film audience will benefit from their fresh ideas and dynamism.

Participation

Cojuangco's participation is key to the competition, because his companies are providing P5 million to help finance the production of the 10 full-length movies that are being entered in Cinamalaya's first feature film competition.

Meanwhile, do catch "ABCinema" every Saturday at 10:30 p.m. on Channel 5. Make it a part of your self-education program in film, and also encourage your friends to watch it, so the level of film literacy in this country can rise.

SM ENTERTAINMENT LIVE

December 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm

5th Flr.,
Activity Area

KRYSTALA

Mall Tour

Forensic doctor loves to read

MY photo exhibit on "Reading" will be exhibited at Power Books, Glorietta 4, Dec. 15-30. Readers photographed in their libraries are Eugenia Duran-Apostol, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, former Sen. Loren Legarda, the Singson sisters (Dr. Rebecca B. Singson, Dr. Ronna Singson-Ledesma, Kelly Singson-Jugo and Rissa Singson), Marlene Aguilar, Francisco J. Colayco, Tita Meneses-Trillo, and Angie Blardony Ureta.

Today's guest reader is forensic doctor, Raquel Fortun. Her essay:

Peaceful

"I have always considered libraries as sacred sanctuaries. Peaceful. Clean and orderly. Sturdy narra tables and shelves stacked neatly. Almost like a place of worship.



FORTUN. Libraries are sacred sanctuaries.

"As a child, the books I read were my escape hatch, a way out of the world I was in that I sometimes didn't like. I was able to travel and meet people, and all I had to do was to flip pages and let my eyes skim through tapestries of letters. As simple as that, I had a movie theater in my head.

"While growing

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

up, we were not really privileged. Sometimes, I get to compare my daughter's life now and how it was for me when I was her age. Lucky her and poor me! Trips to the grocery were uncommon, and I remember well my mom's admonition: *kung sasama ka, bawal magturo!*

Special treats

"Much more rare were bookstore trips, and the few occasions when I actually got to buy books were hardly shopping sprees. Those special treats happened only during birthdays or after Christmas when there was *balato* money saved.

"There was only enough to buy one special book, and that precious gift was carefully covered in plastic. I would write my name on it, of course, and also when and where it was bought. To this day, I still have treasured Nancy Drew mysteries in plastic. A typical book has this written in my schoolgirl handwriting of long ago: Raquel Barros del Rosario. 2/21/74. Bookmark. Handle with care!"

(To be concluded)

Email mandynavasero@photopro.com.ph or mandynavasero@yahoo.com

Rigid auditions reveal treasure trove of Pinoy talents

By Ryan Cayabyab

(Conclusion)

IN the end, there were 149 musicians and 62 highly-rated theater and pop-oriented vocalists who qualified for the auditions for Asia's newest theme park.

The profile of the artists who auditioned was varied. One thing most musicians had in common was their experience with marching bands. Band members from Tanay, Cavite and Antipolo came to audition before the international panel, together with students from Manila's prestigious music schools, and members of national military and local government bands.

Vocalists

The talent and music directors came here specifically to look for instrumentalists. The schedule of auditions for vocalists was set for January 2005. But, when they were told that A-rated singers were available, they expanded the auditions to include vocalists. They were not disappointed!

By the end of the auditions, 58 Filipino musicians and vocalists were identified for callbacks, but many others were turned away only because of a lack of available positions.

The foreign panel could not believe the

RIGID/A3-2



Sony Ericsson



First Seen. First Heard.

Kylie debuts on the new Sony Ericsson K700i.



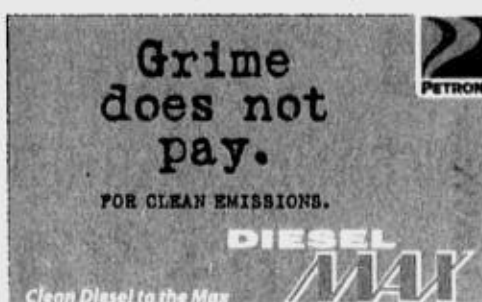
Catch the MP3 and music video of Kylie's latest single, "I Believe in You" on the new Sony Ericsson K700i. Available in accredited dealers.

"Ultimate Kylie", the new album featuring all of Kylie's greatest hits, is now available in all music stores.



BUSINESS

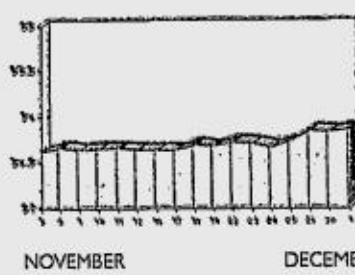
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E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.netEditor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Exports surged 12.3% in October

INDICATORS CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.08 = \$1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 2, 2004

₱ 103.52 = \$1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 3, 2004

GOLD: \$ 450.20-450.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 30, 2004

December 3, 2004	Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
	United States	Dollar	0.748895	1.000000	56.1400
	Japan	Yen	0.007302	0.009750	0.5474
	United Kingdom	Pound	1.449637	1.935700	108.6702
	Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096330	0.128629	7.2212
	Switzerland	Franc	0.657792	0.878349	49.3105
	Canada	Dollar	0.633208	0.845523	47.4677
	Singapore	Dollar	0.459050	0.612870	34.4121
	Australia	Dollar	0.580629	0.775314	43.5261
	Bahrain	Dinar*	1.986566	2.652661	148.9204
	Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.199700	0.266660	14.9703
	Brunei	Dollar	0.457648	0.611098	34.3070
	Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000111	0.0062
	Thailand	Baht	0.019065	0.025458	1.4292
	UAE	Dirham	0.203925	0.272301	15.2870
	Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.335300	74.9637
	Argentina	Peso	0.254510	0.339847	19.0790
	Brazil	Real	0.276958	0.369822	20.7618
	Denmark	Kroner	0.134609	0.179743	10.0908
	India	Rupee	0.016905	0.022573	1.2672
	Malaysia	Ringgit	0.197104	0.263193	14.7757
	Mexico	New Peso	0.067274	0.089831	5.0431
	New Zealand	Dollar	0.536420	0.716281	40.2120
	Norway	Kroner	0.122375	0.163407	9.1737
	Pakistan	Rupee	0.012661	0.016906	0.9491
	South Africa	Rand	0.130220	0.173883	9.7618
	Korea	Won	0.000717	0.000957	0.0537
	Sweden	Kroner	0.111599	0.149018	8.3659
	Syria	Pound	0.014452	0.019298	1.0834
	Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023272	0.031075	1.7446
	Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000391	0.000522	0.0293

STOCK MARKET

Trading suspended

STOCK trading was suspended yesterday in the wake of typhoon Yoyong.

Shares had ended marginally higher Thursday as investors cheered the Supreme Court ruling allowing foreign investors to take control of local mining projects, traders said.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed up 0.52 point, or 0.03 percent, at 1,816.99, following Wednesday's 0.8 percent decline.

"Some of the positions in blue chips were sold (in favor of mining stocks), and speculation that some of the mining stocks will eventually return to par is very rife now," said DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila.

The Supreme Court Wednesday upheld the 1995 Philippine Mining Act and the contract between the government and Australia's WMC Resources Ltd. to develop a copper and gold mine. It said the law and the contract did not violate the constitutional provision that limits control of mining ventures to Filipinos.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

EXPORTS accelerated in the year through October, boosted by strong demand for electronics, although the pace was lagging other major Asian rivals.

Exports in October rose 12.3 percent from a year earlier, outpacing a rise of 8.4 percent in September data, government figures showed yesterday.

Analysts said that puts the economy on track to meet the targeted 10-percent export growth rate for 2004.

The National Statistics Office said export earnings in October jumped to \$3.75 billion from \$3.34 billion a year earlier. Exports in the first 10 months increased 8.9 percent to \$32.64 billion from \$29.97 billion a year earlier.

U.S. durable goods orders had improved significantly since August, which augured well for the Philippines, said Sin Beng Ong, economist with JP Morgan.

"After a third quarter 2004 slowdown in electronic shipments, the outlook for electronics

in the fourth quarter has improved and is expected to remain firm through yearend," Ong said.

Electronics exports, which account for two-thirds of total shipments, were up 13.2 percent from a year earlier at \$2.64 billion, picking up from from September's 9.4 percent rise.

Julian Wee, economist with IDEAglobal.com in Singapore, said Japanese demand for electronics in October had boosted Philippines' exports.

That growth could be sustained if the United States continued to expand into 2005, he said.

Still, competing Chinese exports remained a big threat to the Philippines and the country was nowhere near its Asian neighbors in export performance, analysts said.

"The October growth might

Napocor rate hike seen in early '05

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority suggested that the public, while already hit by aggressive rise in inflation, patiently bear with the additional power rate increase by the National Power Corp. early next year.

The Neda said the negative effects of increasing power rates, such as on consumers' purchasing power, would only be felt in the immediate term.

In the long run, increasing Napocor's rates would be economically advantageous because the move would attract much-needed investments, the government agency explained. The Neda also said that the increase in electricity rates was necessary to solve the country's fiscal problem.

"The impact of high inflation is only short term. But looking at the long term, we have to solve the fiscal problem because it is

through it that we can attract investments and help the economy grow," said Scholastica Cororaton, head of the Neda's policy and planning division.

Cororaton said in an interview that the fiscal position was a major factor affecting either an economic growth or decline.

Napocor recently raised its electricity-generation rate by 98 centavos per kilowatt-hour, but the increase was only half of what it petitioned with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). Napocor is now working on the requirements of the ERC to have the other half approved early next year.

According to the Department of Finance (DOF), it was helping Napocor work out on the planned rate adjustment next year. Finance Secretary Juanita Amantong earlier said the DOF and Napocor have submitted the documentary requirements asked by the ERC.

NAPOCOR/B5

sound quite good, but the bottomline here is that the Philippines is still well behind other Asean countries in terms of export performance.

"Other countries are recording growth in excess of 15-20 percent," said Song Seng Wun, an economist at GK Goh Securities in Singapore.

Thailand's October exports expanded 21.6 percent from a year earlier. Malaysia is expected to report on Monday that exports in October rose more than 22 percent from a year earlier.

Outside of the Association of South East Asian Nations, South Korea's November exports rose nearly 28 percent from a year earlier.

Economists said looking forward from October, the typhoons that struck the Philippines in the past two weeks could hit exports.

The peso ended local trading on Thursday at 56.08 to a dollar, rising modestly as an extended US dollar decline boosted region-

al currencies.

But the peso was one of the worst performing Asian currencies this year. Trading was affected by the typhoon on Friday.

Analysts said trade balances had little impact on the peso, whose fortunes were determined more by the country's fragile budget position, political risks and capital flows.

Data last month showed the country might meet a targeted budget deficit of 4.2 percent of GDP in 2004.

The capital account is supported mainly by the heavy remittances overseas Filipinos send home, which was nearly \$8 billion in 2003.

Moody's investors service has put the Philippines' ratings on review for a possible downgrade owing to doubts about the government's ability to meet its deficit targets. The Philippines' long-term local currency rating is already two notches below investment grade.

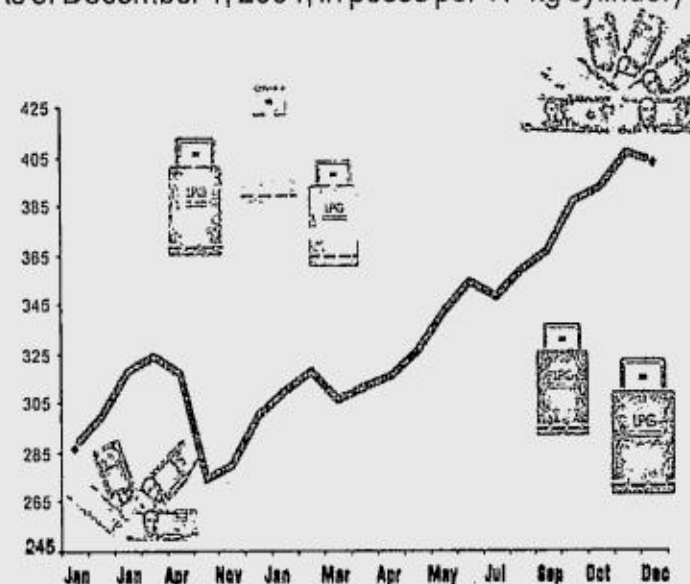
Reuters

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Average LPG prices

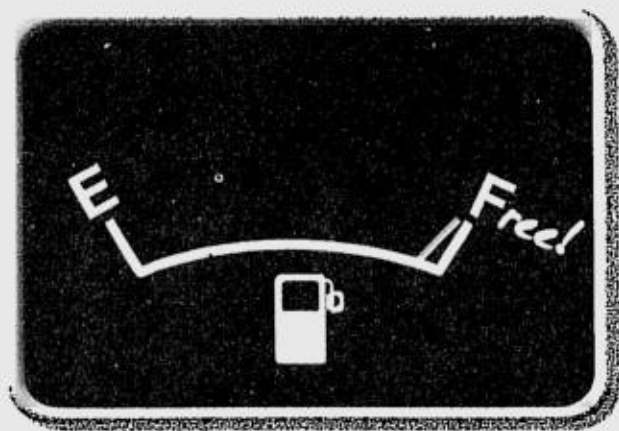
(As of December 1, 2004, in pesos per 11-kg cylinder)



Source: Department of Energy

AFTER over 10 price increases this year, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) currently sells for between P373.50 and P430 per 11-kilogram cylinder. In December last year, LPG prices ranged from P275 to P323.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

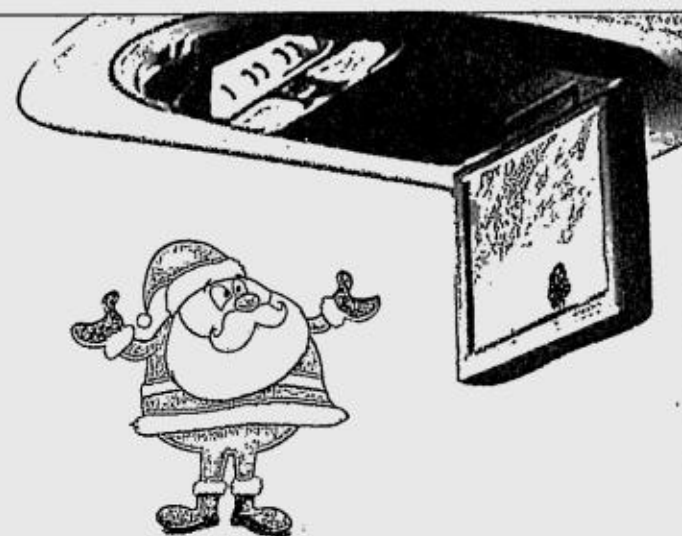


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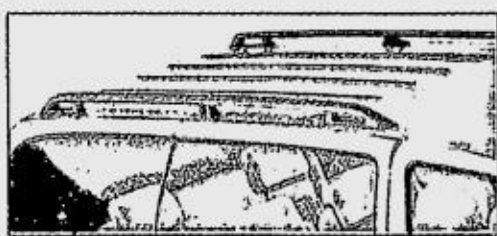


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INTERNET MARKET

Asean+3 pushes SMEs to drum up trade online

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ASEAN+3 economies have set up a mechanism that would encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to use information and communication technology to drive up their competitiveness in the world market.

The group includes Japan, China and South Korea as well as the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The economic forum established the Asean+3 SME Network, an Internet portal that aggressively promotes the use of IT tools especially among exporters.

Member economies envision the network to be the largest online meeting place for suppliers and buyers within the group. They also want the portal to be the first destination for buyers from the rest of the world.

Fernando Cala, an expert from the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Export Trade Promotion, said Asean+3 SME Network would make it easier for small businesses to obtain information on marketing and trade within the East Asian region.

This would allow SMEs to spend less time

and money on finding the right business while getting the most accurate and latest data through www.eTradeShow.org.

The portal provides information on product and services, factories, management, research and development, quality control, clients and other related facts.

It also has trade leads where members can post, view and reply to buying and selling offers to meet potential business partners around the world. Tenders could be posted on a real-time basis.

In the Philippines, the government has hailed the SME sector as the backbone of the economy, making up 99.6 percent of all registered businesses and employing 70 percent of the total workforce.

The government's support program for SMEs include aid in financing, marketing, training, product development and technology use.

On Thursday, the government-run Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. reported that lending to SMEs reached a total of P18.6 billion in the first nine months.

SB Corp. president Benel P. Laguna said loans benefited at least 40,000 SMEs under the SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth program or Sulung.

Kitchen or egg

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

JUST the other day, this section reported that I should probably sport a new hairdo.

All right, the report did not directly talk about my balding head. The report actually said that a foreign group was having second thoughts about investing in CAP.

It's just that, when I learned the reason why the foreign group apparently backed out, it made me want to grow my hair back to shoulder length. In my time, long hair was a form of protest.

Something is terribly wrong in this country if it is true that, as the report on CAP indicated, the government is doing everything it can to block foreign investments.

OUR reporter, Elizabeth L. Sanchez, quoted SEC Chair Fe Barin herself on the reason why the foreign group had not put a lot of foreign investments into CAP as planned.

CAP as you know, is the College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc.—a pre-need company selling education plans for the past 25 years or so.

Four years ago, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the regulator of pre-need companies, ruled that pre-need companies must raise tons of money. Billions!

After 20 years of high growth in pre-needs, the SEC suddenly wanted pre-needs to put up a lot more of the so-called "actuarial reserves."

The rule assumed that pre-needs were exposed to the same "accident" risks as insurance companies, which were suffering from a major downturn for many years.

In other words, the SEC wanted CAP to look for new investors. CAP was able to work out an agreement with the New York-based Worthing Investments for the equity infusion.

Now, the SEC license of CAP to sell education plans expired about two months ago. The SEC has yet to renew the license.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, according to Barin herself, was the reason why the New York-based Worthing Investments is backing out of investing in CAP. You know, CAP does not have the SEC license.

Taken another way, I get it that the CAP cannot do what it has been doing for the past 25 years, which was sell education plans, because the SEC would not let it.

Yet one of the SEC's conditions on CAP before the SEC could renew the license of CAP was precisely that CAP should increase its capital.

At the same time, the New York group Worthing Investments would not put the additional capital into CAP, which the SEC requires of CAP before the regulator could renew its license.

And why is that? Well, it's precisely because the SEC has not yet renewed the license of CAP.

Let me see if I get it right: the SEC will only renew the license of CAP if CAP can get the capital infusion from Worthing Investments, which nevertheless will only invest in CAP if and only if the SEC renews the license, which the SEC at the same time is withholding from CAP, only because Worthing Investments is waiting for CAP to get the SEC license. Is that it?

Something has to give here. This is not about the chicken or the egg. It is about those thousands of worried CAP plan holders who cannot rely on the government for their education, despite the constitutional duty of the government to provide it to them.

I tell you, I must really grow my hair long again.

MY contacts in business actually asked me pointblank why I was losing my hair. No, actual-

ly, it's not that. They asked me why I was late in writing about the new "actuarial reserves" rule of the SEC on pre-need companies like CAP.

You see, earlier I wrote that the SEC computation of the "actuarial reserves" for CAP had proven to be wrong. Way off wrong! Wretchedly wrong!

It was off by about 50 percent so far this year, meaning that under the SEC rule, CAP should put up as "reserve" some 50 percent more than it actually—in REALITY—paid out to the plan holders.

Yet the SEC-computed awfully wrong "actuarial reserves" were the basis for the SEC requirement on CAP to put up more capital.

But whatever, CAP still complied in the past years. It invited new investors to infuse capital. Only, it could not get the capital because the SEC would not give it the license, which CAP precisely needed to attract the investors.

The way I look at it, the imposition of the SEC on companies like CAP was not based on actual data, but rather on a lot of guesswork, which was already proven wrong.

With that kind of mistake, if the SEC were in charge of the kitchen, we would be eating the eggshells instead of the omelette.

ONLY a few days ago, the Supreme Court reversed itself on the mining issue. It ruled that foreign groups may indeed go into mining business here.

It was a 180-degree turn from its ruling last January, which said that the very same thing was... well, "UNCONSTITUTIONAL."

Of course the Supreme Court has been under attack from the business community regarding its meddling ways.

The Supreme Court has ruled on almost every issue that has come its way, including those dealing with purely economic and business policies of the executive.

Now, what has that got to do with the price of eggs in China, or the hair on my head?

Well, I don't know if the Supreme Court ruling should be taken as a signal to other agencies of the government to look more at the developmental aspects of their decisions, rather than... well, "other considerations."

I also don't know if the SEC's insistence to hold back the license of CAP is meant to give an edge to some insurance groups, which compete in the same market as the pre-need companies like CAP.

But this much is clear to me: the business community has been saying that we would need all the investments which we could possibly get from anybody, whether Filipino or foreigner.

For it is the only way for this economy to post what the "government economists" themselves refer to as "sustainable growth."

That 6.3 percent growth so far this year, well, it was basically consumption-led growth! It will not last.

Yet we will need higher growth rates for the next hundred years just to catch up with our neighbors here in Asia.

And in business, they are saying that only fresh investments can do it for us. The good news is, the government is trying its level best to block investments. *Hay naku!*

International Bank to list shares

THE INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank (iBank) on Monday will begin listing its 318.680 million outstanding common shares.

The listed shares include the 68.680 million shares it offered during the recently concluded initial public offering at the price of P16.18 per share. The IPO shares are equivalent to approximately 22 percent of the bank's resulting common shares outstanding.

The IPO has been well received. Trading participants of the Philippine Stock Exchange submitted subscription commitments for more than four times the IPO shares allocated to the PSE.

ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners, the issue manager and lead underwriter, reported a very good reception from the investing public.

Officials of iBank bared that funds from the IPO would enable the bank to leverage on its expanded equity base and increase its fixed income securities and loan portfolios. The significant asset increase can be absorbed by iBank's existing organization, distribution and information technology infrastructure with minimal cost increases, thus, accelerating the bank's earnings growth.

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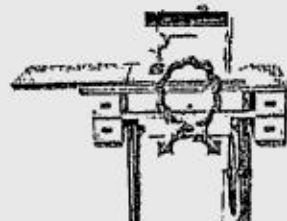
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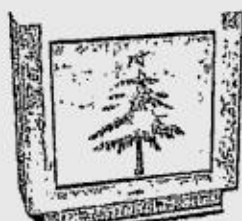
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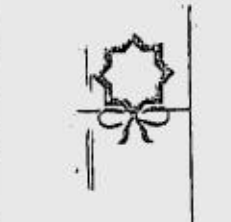
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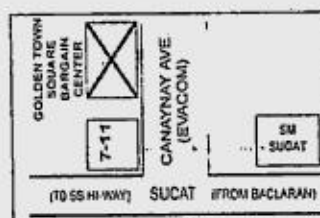
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3067 Series of 2004



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Tight supply may jack up cost of RP rice imports

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE TIGHTENING supply and rising prices of rice in the world market are expected to jack up the country's cost of rice importation next year.

Rice prices in the world market have so far increased by some 30 percent.

International rice traders forecast that from an average of \$230 per metric ton, the price of the commodity could reach \$300 per metric ton.

"This is not good for big buyers, including the Philippines, whose average imports reach 500,000 metric tons and above," said an industry source.

For this year, state trading firm National Food Authority spent about P12 billion for the importation of some 920,000

metric tons of rice to stabilize local supply and prices.

The NFA had estimated that the country's rice importation next year would not exceed 600,000 metric tons, or lower than this year's level. However, the impact of the typhoons that hit some rice-producing areas in the country has yet to be factored in.

Industry sources said further increases in the prices of the commodity in the world market were triggered by the price increases imposed by Thailand, the world's leading rice exporter.

The Thai government recently increased its buying price of paddy from its farmers to about \$260 per metric ton.

"The government of Thailand increased the subsidy it gives to the rice farmers in a bid to woo votes for the incumbent admin-



THE COUNTRY hopes that the recent typhoons that hit certain rice producing areas will not affect the projected bumper paddy harvest this year.

istration for next year's national election," the source said.

The source noted that Thailand, whose production growth continued to outpace those of other rice exporting countries, would likely remain the world's primary source of rice. Most of its competitors, he

said, are experiencing problems in their rice production.

China, for one, is seen to further withdraw from the market next year because of its limited supply for export. India, for its part, is also expected to limit its exports due to lower produc-

tion and lack of subsidy from its government. Vietnam, which has emerged as another major rice supplier, is also facing production problems and is seen to lower its export volume.

"With China, India and Vietnam expected to remain in the sidelines, Thailand will be in the best position to dictate prices," the source noted.

"Let's hope that the country could hurdle the El Niño next year and that farmers will be able to increase production. Otherwise, it will be more expensive for us to import rice," said the source.

The country's rice production this year is expected to hit a record of 14.54 million MT, about 7 percent higher than the 2003 level of 13.5 million MT.

Agriculture officials attributed this year's higher produc-

tion to the increasing use of hybrid and certified rice seeds, as well as favorable weather conditions. As a result, yields per hectare went up by about 4.2 percent.

An NFA official said the country was expected to have a high year-end rice buffer stock of 90 to 100 days.



Farmers urged to hike corn production

THE NATIONAL Corn Competitiveness Board (Corn Board) is urging farmers to sustain an increasing level of production of yellow corn in view of an expected tightness in global supply.

Corn Board vice chair Joji Ilagan-Bian said this formed part of the recommended action plans and strategies aimed at making the sector globally competitive and meet the rising requirements of the local poultry and livestock industries.

Bian also laid out the livestock demand scenario in the next six years, as well as the corn production forecasts from 2005 to 2010.

Larry Digal, one of the industry's consultants, said demand for corn in the global market would be tight from 2005 onwards due to China's unusually high purchases.

He added that China had been increasing its procurement of corn from the United States and Brazil. For this year, its purchases were 5-10 percent than last year's level.

The Philippines imports at least 1 million metric tons of yellow corn a year from neighboring countries in Asia and even from the United States to feed its livestock sector.

Corn Board vice chair and Jobs Undersecretary Theresa Cruz-Capellan said that "with the rising demand from China and the Philippines' foreign exchange situation, the local livestock and poultry raisers will have to rely on local corn supply for its feeds requirements."

Capellan added that "corn growers should now expand local production and co-invest with livestock and poultry raisers so as to benefit from the good corn prices that were projected to remain until next year.

Capellan said corn prices in December this year were expected to increase from \$78.44 per metric ton, for a minimum of 200 MT, to about \$82.67/MT in March 2005; \$85.43/MT in May 2005; \$88.18/MT in July 2005; \$91.33/MT in September 2005, and to \$94.88/MT by the end of next year.

The trend of the commodity futures—as benchmarked by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Minneapolis Grains Exchange, and Commodities Exchange of New York—was used as basis in forecasting the prices.

Earlier, Corn Board chair Doris Magsaysay-Ho rallied the support of the private sector to help farmers raise their productivity by investing in corn production, processing and marketing.

Magsaysay-Ho said that in the domestic front alone, "the demand for feeds is already expanding as the livestock sector annually grows at 3.7 percent, or about 5.3 million metric tons a year. If the poultry sector is included, demand triples as growth of poultry is at 5.5 percent per year."

Corn Board members are optimistic that the developments locally and abroad will encourage Philippine corn farmers to expand production and increase their yields by adopting hybrid corn technologies, and even biotechnology.



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People, Events & Products

AEI pays tribute to partners during its 3rd anniversary

IT WAS like Oscar's night. Or Famas. Or Cannes. Everywhere you look, there was a familiar, famous face. But unlike their glitter, this celebration had its spotlights focused on people who made enormous contributions to see the sparkle in the eyes of the less fortunate.

It was a night everyone had been looking forward to. A night not only of unforgettable Broadway classics but more importantly, of seeing another year's work for the benefit of those adversely affected with various, and sometimes debilitating, eye diseases. A night where the big-hearted benefactors of the Asian Eye Institute (AEI) and the Ophthalmological Foundation of the Philippines (Ofphil) trooped to the Captain's Bar to celebrate AEI's 3rd anniversary and fundraising project dubbed "An Eye on Broadway."

Led by Oscar M. Lopez, chair of the board of directors of the Asian Eye Institute and chair of the board of trustees of the Ophthalmological Foundation of the Philippines and Dr. Felipe I. Tolentino, president and founder of the Asian Eye Institute and the Ophthalmological Foundation of the Philippines, the officers and staff of AEI thanked those who have been giving ceaselessly to the

cause of bringing sight to hundreds of thousands of underprivileged Filipinos around the country. In his speech, Lopez even described the event as a "celebration of service to the community by two institutions that offer world class eye care to all Filipinos." For his part, Dr. Tolentino lauded Ofphil "for being there to reach out to the disadvantaged sector of society."

Guests, which included Senator Jovito Salonga, Jose Concepcion, Manoling Morato, to name a few, honored the event with their presence and were all greeted at the lobby with an exhibit of photos of AEI and Ofphil's Medical Mission, showcasing beneficiaries who all regained their eyesight through the Corporate Social Responsibility program of the two institutions as well as through the kindness and compassion of their Medical Mission partners, like Alcon Laboratories (Phils) Inc, Bausch & Lomb, Operation Blessing; and event sponsors led by Meralco, First Generation Holdings Corp, Alcon Laboratories (Phils) Inc, IOS Marketing Corp, Lufthansa German Airlines, Phinma Inc, Santen-a division of Croma Medic, Avon, First Philippine Industrial Corp, First Sumiden Circuits Inc, First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp, Medilight Inc, First

Phils Industrial Park, Philec/Fedcor, Essilab Phils Inc, McCann-Erickson Phils Inc, LSGI Corp, Integrated Waste Management Inc, Lister Corp, CP Marketing, and Mandarin Oriental Hotel, which gave AEI special concessions to enable it to raise more funds for charity.

And as expected, performers Josie Roces-Chaves, Jeff Arcilla, and EJ Villacorta wowed everyone with their memorable Broadway classics that lasted over an hour. When congratulated for their splendidly wonderful performance, stage director-writer Jaime del Mundo who conceptualized and directed and in some portions even acted as narrator for this highly-praised musicale says, "It's the least we can do for the people who are continuously and magnanimously been giving to their needy countrymen." Bernie Pasamba's String Quartet, meanwhile, serenaded guests during cocktails and before the main event with their own renditions of favorite Broadway classics.

Will there be a repeat of the fundraising project? Dr. Tolentino replies, "With this kind of reception and the continued support of the people you just saw here, I'm sure the next one will be bigger in terms of the number of indigents who will benefit from the free surgeries."



DR. P BRINGS CHEER TO LESS FORTUNATE FILIPINOS

JS Untrade Merchandise Inc exclusive distributor of Dr. P recently supported DSWD's Medical/Dental Legal Mission at Bukang Liwayway Minimum Camp through product donations. Photo shows Joselito Fajardo, assistant director for administration of Bureau of Corrections receiving Dr. P Adult Diapers and gift packs from director

Ma. Alicia Bonoan of DSWD. Their support for this project is in line with their program of reaching out to the Visitorless, Indigent, Sick, Old Prisoners (Viso), who are the most deprived sector of our society. This is a continuing effort of Dr. P to help bring cheer to less fortunate Filipinos, whatever the season.

Multi-awarded chef joins Iscahm

CHEF Humphrey Cooper Navarro, a consistent champion and gold medalist in prestigious local and international competitions and executive sous chef of the Mandarin Oriental Manila for 5 years, is the newest addition to Iscahm's impressive roster of top-caliber chefs. This accomplished chef has got more than culinary awards under his belt. He has taken up photography to capture the beauty of his creations and is a very skilled food stylist as well. He is also the designer and sole proprietor of Chef Republic Workwear, a designing company that specializes in chef's apparel. It is chef's clothing made by a chef - so it not only looks good but

also takes into consideration their special needs; clothing restrictions, safety, and ergonomics. To date, their clientele ranges from celebrities, hotels, restaurants and fellow chefs here and abroad. Meet chef Humphrey at Iscahm and get the chance to train under the country's crème de la crème: five-star hotel executive chefs, pastry chefs and hotel executives. For more information, call telephone numbers (632) 926-8888/920-1481/426-7672. You can visit their website at www.iscahm.com or email sales@iscahm.com. Iscahm is located at 4th Floor, FBR Arcade, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Product FILES

Panciteria Lido's X-mas Packages

PANCITERIA Lido's legacy of authentic Chinese cooking since 1936 graces your Christmas festivities through their 4 Econo Solo X-mas Packages priced at P69 which may be combined with their famous Chami, one of the most authentic Chinese noodle recipe considered to be an all time favorite. Minimum of 30 orders automatically gets a 5 percent off or may be converted to gift certificates or foil pouch drinks. Aside from this, Panciteria Lido offers other X-mas Packages for 2004 from P78, P130 and P180. For more details, contact T. Alonzo branch in Sta. Cruz Manila, tel. nos. 733-5260/733-6839, Madison Square Ortigas Ave. Greenhills, San Juan Branch, tel. no. 724-4051 and Westlife Place, West Avenue Branch, tel. no. 374-7494.



Outlast bags award

OUTLAST, a recipient of many awards in the past for quality, bagged the Most Outstanding Motor Battery Brand Award at the recent 2004 Consumers' Choice and Dangal ng Pilipinas Annual Awards, an award-giving body that recognizes Filipino products or services of excellent quality and their significant contributions in nation building. Outlast Maintenance-Free Batteries utilizes 100 percent Calcium-Lead Technology and also boasts of 2 years warranty, a first in Asia. Also available are Outlast low-maintenance batteries. For a safe and sound driving experience, equip your motor with an Outlast battery now.



SALON SAN DIEGO OPENS

Salon San Diego just opened at 46-A Aguirre Avenue, B.F. Homes, Parañaque (tel. no. 809-0861). Photo shows the Salon San Diego team (from left): Gil Aureliano, Carmen Hermoso and Michael Kovitch.



AUTOMATIC CENTRE'S 'PLASMA PLEASURES' OPENS IN GLORIETTA

Automatic Centre's 'Plasma Pleasures,' an exhibit of flat panel TVs officially opened in Glorietta, Makati on Nov. 22. Shown during the ribbon cutting ceremony are (from left): Edu Manzano, Jose Mari Chan,

Tintin Bersola, Automatic Centre chair Benito Lim, BPI president Gigi Montinola, Ria Tanjato-Trillo and Mari Kaimo. It will run until Dec. 5 and will move to Alabang Town Center from Dec. 13 to 30.

PCU Alumni Homecoming

THE PHILIPPINE Christian University Alumni Association Inc in cooperation with the College of Business Administration Batch 1987 to 1998 are inviting all graduates of PCU to attend the Alumni Homecoming and General Assembly today, 2 p.m. at the University Auditorium. The theme for this homecoming is, "Unity in Diversity: The mentor's role in building alumni's pride and commitment". For details, get in touch with the Alumni Office at tel. nos. 524-6617 or 523-2162.



'Paskong Pinoy' at CATP

FOR THE whole month of December, Concert at the Park is giving way for the celebration of the Department of Tourism's "Paskong Pinoy". Performers are: Dec. 4 - the UE Choral, the Sindaw Performing Arts Guild, the LOC Windstring Ensemble and the Right Spelling Band. For Dec. 5 - Marissa Delgado's Dance Troupe, the Musikito: Ang Batang Musikito, Nonoy and Pinky and the First Born Child Band. On Dec. 11 - The Lakandula Angklung and Dance Troupe, singer Marc Velasco, the Legato Strings and the Toys band. Dec. 12 - the Roppets Puppets, the Magical Entertainment, the Negros Navigation Dancing Porters, the Best of Region 8, the Emmaus Band and the Musikito. Dec. 19 - PLM Dance Troupe, Xandra Peepa, Nonoy and Pinky and the Pure Soul Band. Jan 2 - the Musikong Bumbong of Obando and the Mabuhay and Kalayaan Kundiman singers. CATP will resume regular presentations on Jan. 2 with a balikbayan dance troupe coming from San Jose California, USA.

Rep Petilla inducts Laci

THE OFFICERS of the Leyte Association of California Inc (Laci) of 2004 was inducted into office Oct. 30 at Hotel Hilton Pleasanton by Rep. Remedios 'Matin' L. Petilla of the 1st district of Leyte. Petilla came all the way from Las Vegas after a successful showcase and promotion of Leyte products at Fiesta Filipina show. Ma. Cleo Tibe Aguirre Northington, who is this year's president is a singer from Tacloban City. Other officers inducted for 2004-2005 are Evelyn Qualle Tuca, vice president; Susan Arache Jose, corresponding secretary; Rosemarie Arache Clemente, recording secretary; Oscar Poblete, treasurer; Isabella "Bing" Elizon, PRO; Bonni Fornillos, auditor; Eduardo Pascua and Nick Vivero Jr. Sgt. at Arms; Osserman Caceres, chair of the board; Lili Cabalona Felias, board secretary and members are Pat Bought, William "Bill" Kempis; Orville Tuca.



EARLY CHRISTMAS TREAT FOR MYDREAM JCB WINNERS

By simply registering their myDream JCB cards, using them, and then texting every P1,000 purchase they make as entries, eight lucky cardholders won P80,000 each in cash credit - an early Christmas treat indeed. This concluded the successful myDream JCB first-year anniversary promo "Everyday Rewards." Present at the ceremonial awarding were: (from left) myDream JCB prod-

uct manager Lalaine Juan; grand draw winners, Johnny Mendoza, Alona Placido, and Edgar Vargas; JCB Manila chief representative Shunichi Hatano; Bankard marketing and sales group head Irene Taylo; and JCB marketing manager Judith Gocong. Other winners not in photo are: Zenia Omandam, Manuel Ramirez, Felissa Javellana, David Mejia and Byrnalyn Cabanig.



MILD SEVEN SMOOTH NIGHTS AT MORATO AND EASTWOOD

Mild Seven delivered another round of the Mild Seven Smooth Nights bar tour to the coolest nightspots around town. Smooth talks, sensual fun and classy ambience symbolizes the Mild Seven Smooth Nights bar tour. To bring out the silky-smooth look and sensation of Mild Seven, bars were chosen in the areas of Malate, Makati, Timog, Eastwood, Orti-

gas and Rockwell. Every bar was transformed for a single night into sanctuaries of soft glowing blue lights and enchanting nature-scapes complemented by the alluring sights of the beautiful and sexy Mild Seven models. Photo shows the Mild Seven Smooth Babes hosting the sensual fun games with the bar regulars as contestants.

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for public bidding, on an "as-is-where-is" basis, the following asset formerly belonging to Carruf Development Corporation, as follows:

Description	Indicative Price
Unit 18-N, with an area of 77.85 sq.m. located at Legaspi Towers 300	P2,335,500

Sealed bids will be received on 16 December 2004, 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P500.00.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Maureen B. Vallente at telephone numbers 817-8762 or 892-2145.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2004

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 2, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	33,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	656,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50.5	48.5	48.5	564,900
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	510
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51	51	51	29,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	5,330,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	26	26	26	119,900
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	500
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	13,000
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	263,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	46,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1800	1815	1800	1815	1,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	35,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.86	1.92	1.84	1.86	15,148,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	990	990	975	980	17,200
Iloilo Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	188,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	4,995,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.55	2.55	30,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	109,880
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	1350	1360	1345	1345	7,940,000
Smart Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.79	0.8	80,200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	160,800
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16.5	15.75	16.5	3,434,500
Manila Electric Co. B	25	26.5	25	26	1,964,000
Petrone Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.2	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	517,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.22	1,059,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.22	1,059,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,280,000
Super City Rly Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	5,110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	513,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	31.5	31.5	86,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	136,800
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	40,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	56.5	9,700
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	74.5	73.5	74.5	1,411,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,140,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	30,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,123,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	4,943,000
Ajo Nat'l Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.62	554,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	250,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	0.7	0.74	0.69	0.73	2,100
Bengies Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.15	55,440,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,860,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,260,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.9	2,805,000
Ever-Gatesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	1,300,000
Fininvest Dev. Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	6,800,000
Fin-Hispano Holdings Corp.	28	30.5	28	30.5	1,125,000
Ionics Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	4,016,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.4	3.4	691,000
Macro Asia Corp.	1.44	1.56	1.44	1.5	2,100,000
Marshall Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	305,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	13,140,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	30,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.13	0.13	2,370,000
Wellness Industries Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	6,850,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	740,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	8,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Bella Corp.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.65	5,830,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.9	0.94	790,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	140,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	19	19	18.75	18.75	216,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100

PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	2,116,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	900,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	6,700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	3,200,000
Edo Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,220,000
Fininvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	1,250,000
Fin-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	14,700,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	650,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.52	1.4	1.5	1,333,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	6,330,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	230,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	430,000
Alra Mining & Industrial	0.014	0.015	0.013	0.014	1,841,100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev'l	4	4.05	3.75	3.95	2,191,000
Benquet Corp. A	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	80,000
Benquet Corp. B	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	168,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	0.26	0.27	0.245	0.27	93,390,000
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.36	155,040,000
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	2,334,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0055	1,774,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.44	0.56	0.44	0.56	22,520,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.028	0.03	0.026	0.028	38,540,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.55	0.72	0.55	0.72	4,310,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.16	0.175	0.15	0.16	1,830,000
IMPERIAL RES.					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	5,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	62,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.005	0.0046	0.005	49,000,000
Pacific	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.55	2.6	2.6	129,000
Volcan Ind'l	0.225	0.235	0.22	0.23	1,830,000

US firm buys local call center for \$7.5M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FLORIDA'S call center and outsourcing firm Epixtar Corp. said it agreed to acquire a local call center for \$7.5 million.

In a statement, Epixtar said it has completed an agreement to buy Innovative Marketing Strategies Inc. (IMS), including its Philippine and three US call centers.

The acquisition is expected to take effect on Jan. 3.

Based on IMS' financial statements, call center revenue last year was approximately \$19 million. Epixtar's 2003 revenue stood at \$37 million.

IMS has a call center in Makati. In the United States, it operates in Duluth, Minnesota; Wheeling, West Virginia, and Pittsburg, Kansas.

Epixtar, on the other hand, is headquartered in Miami, Florida. It has contact centers in Eastwood City, Alabang, the Clark special economic zone, and one under construction in Dumaguete. The combined compa-

nies now have a total of 1,312 operational seats and another 3,800 scheduled to go live in 2005. Out of the 3,800 seats, 2,253 will be completed and operational in the first quarter of 2005.

"This represents the next logical step in our development as a contact center operator," commented Ilene Kaminsky, newly named chief executive officer of Epixtar. "With IMS' managerial expertise and book of blue-chip business, we believe this will give us additional reasons to be considered the contact center of choice both in the Philippines and the United States."

"We are thrilled to be joining Epixtar. They have consistently led the industry's move offshore with an unparalleled understanding of operations and management in the Philippines," according to Brad Yeater, Epixtar's executive vice president of operations and former president of IMS. "We now have the ideal platform to continue the expansion that our clients and shareholders expect," he said.

Napocor rate hike ...

From page B1

The DOF is helping push for the increase in Napocor's rates to ease burden on the government, whose fiscal standing has been dragged down by the huge debts of the state-owned utility. The national government has also decided to assume about P200 billion of Napocor's more than P500 billion in debts starting next year.

Amatong earlier said the recent 98-centavo increase in Napocor's rates would generate P24.9 billion in revenue. She said the amount would be used to cov-

er Napocor's operating losses in the past years.

Napocor is the government's single-biggest liability and its budget deficit for the year is expected to hit P114 billion. The figure is about half of the expected consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) this year of a little over P200 billion. The CPSD is the combined deficits of the national government, local government units and state-owned firms.

Solving Napocor's budget woes would help ease the government's own fiscal problem, the DOF said.

AEV's P1.5-B stock offering starts Monday

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures (AEV) is set to offer starting Monday P1.5 billion worth of preferred shares to raise funds for the refinancing of maturing debts and fund future power projects.

In a statement, First Metro Investment Corp., the lead manager for the offering, said the shares would be offered in two batches—series-A with a floating dividend rate and series-B with a fixed dividend rate.

The deal caps a strong month for FMIC, which recently concluded the P780-million bond is-

sue for state-owned Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the P2.75-billion corporate notes of Filinvest Land Inc., FMIC said in a statement.

"These deals affirm our persisting confidence in the capital markets," said FMIC senior vice president Jose Pacifico E. Marcelo. This year, FMIC also acted as joint issue manager for major bond issues including the P3-billion retail bonds of Globe Telecom, the P3-billion notes offering of Unilever Philippines, and the P7-billion retail corporate bond of-

fering of Ayala Corp.

AEV has tapped seven investment banks aside from FMIC of the Metrobank group to manage its P1.5-billion preferred share offering. These included BPI Capital Corp., PCI Capital Corp., Union Bank of the Philippines, United Coconut Planters Bank, RCBC Capital Corp., and Multi-national Investment Bancorporation.

AEV earlier said it was earmarking P500 million for possible investments in power projects, an official of the com-

pany said.

AEV vice president Luis Miguel Aboitiz declined to name the planned power projects.

AEV has an existing P1-billion preferred share issue, which will expire early next year. It will use the bulk of the proceeds from the preferred share offering to refinance this maturing debt.

AEV will offer 150 million non-voting, non-participating, non-convertible, cumulative, redeemable and redeemable preferred shares at an offer price of P10 each.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

The new BMW 1 Series. You are the 1.

And now there is one: the new BMW 1 Series is full of individual personality, striking style and a unique attitude. The BMW 1 Series is the only one in its class. The only one with groundbreaking BMW design. The only one with rear-wheel drive and trademark BMW handling. The only one with a perfect combination of functionality and versatility. As you can see, the BMW 1 Series is one of a kind – for the one who exudes individuality.

Experience the new BMW 1 Series at the BMW Pavilion, Bonifacio Global City, from December 4-9, 2004. Test drive slots available from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The first 30 buyers of the new BMW 1 Series will each get a HP IPAQ h6365 Pocket PC.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Text us your feedback: Inquirer hea name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

WHO PREDICTS 100M DEATHS

RP prepared for bird flu pandemic

By Leotes Marie T. Lugo
Contributor

BANGKOK—Amid warnings made here by international health experts that a bird flu pandemic could erupt in Asia anytime soon and kill millions of people, the Philippine health department is giving the assurance that the government has put in place a plan should the dire predictions come true.

Dr. Ethelyn Nieto of the Center for Health Development, Central Luzon, said the Philippines' success in handling the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003 gave the country experience on how to handle a possible bird flu, or avian influenza, outbreak or even a pandemic.

"Right now, we don't have a single [bird flu case], that's the best part of it. But we have already prepared a national plan just in case some [infected] migratory birds...slip into the country," Nieto said.

"We will always be ready just like with SARS. For avian flu, we are [very] ready," she added.

Nieto represented Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit at the World Health Organization and Association of Southeast Asian Nations health ministers' meeting on avian influenza here last week.

'No country is safe'

During the conference, Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO director for the Western Pacific, warned that from all indications, an influenza pandemic would most likely start in Asia.

"When this pandemic erupts, no country is safe," said Omi.

Up to 100 million people could die within weeks if a bird flu pandemic

breaks out, Omi said in Hong Kong, days after the conference.

Even wide-scale vaccination programs would not be enough to halt the pandemic's inexorable advance, Omi said.

"The most conservative estimate is that 7-10 million people would die, but the maximum range will be more: 50 million or in the worst case, 100 million people," Omi said in his starkest warning yet of the potential peril from a mutation of bird flu to a form that could be transmitted by humans.

Genetic mutations

The avian influenza virus has been undergoing genetic changes and has been affecting more animals. There is also growing concern that the virus could remain entrenched in the region and become endemic.

"We have never been so close to [a pandemic] since 1968. Although we cannot predict which virus will be responsible for it, the persisting and evolving situation of avian influenza in poultry in Asia since 2003 poses serious threat to human health, including the risk of a pandemic," health officials said in a summary of the WHO-Asean conference proceedings.

Omi said there were three reasons the world was closer now to a pandemic than at any time in recent years.

First, there is the unprecedented geographic spread and impact of the current outbreak in poultry. Second, influenza pandemics historically occur cyclically every 20 to 30 years, and the next one is now overdue. Third, the current virus appears not only very resilient but also versatile, and evidence suggest that it has become more infectious as it changes.

Influenza type A

According to the WHO, the bird flu is a contagious disease caused by the influenza virus type A that commonly occurs in birds, especially poultry, and has



been transmitted to other animals and to humans. In its severe form, the disease is rapidly fatal, causing deaths in both birds and humans.

Since December 2003, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Japan, Korea and Taiwan have reported bird flu outbreaks, leading to the culling more than 120 million poultry. Vietnam and Thailand have reported bird flu cases in 44 people, including 32 deaths.

Despite its proximity to the bird flu-hit countries, the Philippines has remained free of the disease.

"There is yet no scientific explanation to that but what's important is

that we don't have it. We, however, have to make sure that no migratory birds and no smuggled birds with bird flu enter the country," Nieto said in an interview at the sidelines of the WHO-Asean conference.

She said the Department of Agriculture was closely monitoring entry and exit points in the country.

The WHO says migratory birds can carry the virus long distance; epidemics occur when domesticated birds like chicken and turkey come in contact with them.

Regional preparedness

In a joint statement signed at the

end of the conference, health officials asked the WHO's support for collaborative research in strengthening pandemic preparedness. They also wanted the WHO's help in establishing mechanisms to support collaborative efforts among countries and to make available the resources required to combat this public threat, especially for developing countries without sufficient resources.

The ministers agreed to collaborate with relevant agencies and sectors in promoting food safety and safe animal husbandry practices with the aim of minimizing human health risks.

With a report from AFP

Have your eyes had it?

DISCOVER

Massie
Santos Ballon



DO YOU work all day in front of a computer, then go home and surf the Internet for hours before going to bed?

If you can't take your eyes off the computer screen, you may be at higher risk for glaucoma than those who spend less time online. This was the message of Dr. Masayuki Tatemichi and his colleagues from the Toho University School of Medicine in Tokyo, who noted that more and more people were spending their time in front of visual display terminals, or VDTs.

Their research, which determines the effects of long-term VDT use, appears in the December issue of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.

Glaucoma is a progressive, age-related eye disease. Over time, the drainage canals in the eyes can become clogged, causing the fluid to build up. This increases pressure within the eyeball and compresses the optic nerves at the back of the eyes. Left untreated, the condition can lead to permanent blindness.

A family history of eye problems, age and eye injury are among the known risk factors for glaucoma.

Screening the participants

Between May and October 2000, Dr. Tatemichi et al. invited 14,000 ran-

domly selected workers from large Japanese electronics and steel corporations to be part of the study.

The 10,000 workers who agreed to participate submitted to a visual field test and underwent a complete medical examination. They filled out a questionnaire that asked how long they had been using computers, how much time they spent in front of the computer daily, and how much time they thought they had spent in front of the computer in the past five years. They were also asked whether they wore glasses or contact lenses, a family history of eye disease, and other questions about their health, lifestyle and working habits.

Diagnosed with glaucoma

The nearly 600 participants who were found to have vision problems were subjected to a full ophthalmologic exam, and the results verified by a panel of glaucoma specialists.

One hundred sixty-five (165) were

diagnosed with glaucoma, and interestingly, over 90 percent of them said they had no family history of the condition, nor had they complained of or noted feeling pressure in their eyeballs, or had frequently suffered migraines.

Tatemichi et al. also found that 136 of them were myopic, or nearsighted, which led to the suggestion that myopia might be a risk factor for glaucoma. They hypothesized that the optic nerve in myopic eyes "might be structurally more susceptible to computer stress than in nonmyopic eyes."

There are some flaws in the study, among them the fact that the workforce they studied was predominantly male, which skews the results, and not everyone who had glaucoma was aware he had the condition, which affects not just how quickly the condition could be managed, but also one's family health history.

Still, the results they gathered promise that further studies would be eagerly awaited.

Quiz

Take the following quiz derived from Dr. Tatemichi's study to determine whether you are a light, moderate or heavy computer user:

1. How long have you been using

the computer?

- Less than 5 years (1 point)
- Between 5 and 10 years (2 points)
- Between 10 and 20 years (3 points)
- Over 20 years (4 points)

2. How many hours a day do you spend in front of the computer?

- Less than an hour a day (1 point)
- 1-4 hours a day (2 points)
- 4-8 hours a day (3 points)
- Over 8 hours a day (4 points)

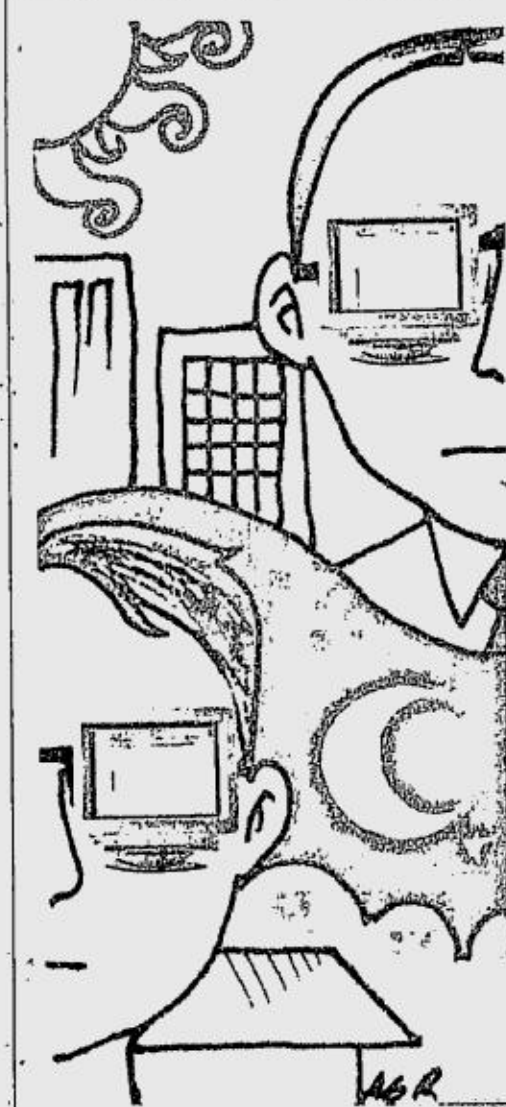
To determine your computer user index, multiply your point/s for question 1 by your point/s for question 2.

If you scored between 1 and 3 points, you are a light computer user. If you scored between 4 and 8 points, you are a moderate computer user.

If you scored anywhere from 9-16 points, step away from the monitor and spend some time shopping for Christmas presents the old-fashioned way. Not only will you give your eyes a well-deserved rest, but you can also avoid early onset Alzheimer's and Parkinson's just by planning strategies to avoid the worst of the traffic and crowds in the malls.

But that's better discussed in another column.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.



Diabetics told: don't skip annual urine test

By Charles E. Buban

SKIPPING an annual, and oftentimes free, dipstick urine test could be risky especially for diabetic, hypertensive people.

Philippine Diabetes Association president Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy said the test was useful in determining when a patient would require more intensive treatment and monitoring.

The test checks for microalbuminuria, the presence of abnormal amounts of protein (albumin) in the urine, which can be an early indication of possible kidney damage.

"When a person suffers from diabetes or high blood pres-

sure, or both, changes may occur in the kidney's blood vessels that alter the organ's ability to keep protein, especially albumin, from passing into the urine," explained Sy.

Kidney disease

Without intervention, diabetics with microalbuminuria have a 19 percent to 25 percent chance of worsening their condition to proteinuria, a more serious form of protein leakage, within three to five years.

Proteinuria can ultimately progress to end-stage renal disease, which can no longer be treated with drugs. Hemodialysis and a renal transplant would

be the only remaining options for the patient.

"We don't want our patients to reach this stage. Doctors need to educate patients that detecting microalbuminuria at an early stage may allow treatment to be optimized to help prevent or slow down the progression to renal disease," says Sy.

Low awareness

Although the PDA noted an increasing number of diabetic hypertensive people who were taking an annual dipstick test, a significant number of them had no idea why they were taking the test.

A survey of diabetic hyper-

tensive respondents from six Southeast Asian countries showed that of the 74 percent who took the annual test, 54 percent had no idea what they were being tested for.

The PDA recently screened 646 Filipino patients using the dipstick test and results showed that 73 percent of confirmed diabetics were positive for microalbuminuria, while 62 percent of unconfirmed diabetics had presence of protein in the urine.

In patients with both diabetes and hypertension, 75 percent were found positive for microalbuminuria.

Sy said that of the diabetic hy-

pertensive people who took the test, only 66 percent were aware what it was for.

Demand

The screening was part of an international campaign called Developing Education on Microalbuminuria for Awareness of renal and cardiovascular risk in Diabetes (Demand), the first study to test for microalbuminuria in people with type 2 diabetes.

It was undertaken by the Philippine Diabetes Association and the Philippine Society of Nephrology, in cooperation with Sanofi-Adventis.

The survey was conducted to

increase awareness on the risk of diabetic hypertensive people in developing kidney problems and to highlight the importance of early detection and treatment.

Results from other countries were not so different: in Thailand only 50 percent knew what the test was for, in Indonesia, it was 51 percent, while in Singapore, it was 70 percent.

"Diabetes, which affects more than 190 million people, has become the leading cause of end-stage renal disease globally. With a simple urine test, we can identify potential problems long before they become a serious health risk," Sy says.

Long battle vs tobacco industry seen

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE TOBACCO industry's allegedly strong influence on the government, loopholes in the proposed legislation that would lead to a total ban on tobacco advertising, the easy accessibility of cigarettes, and the economic myths being propagated by the tobacco industry.

These were the issues raised by advocates of tobacco control, as they explained why they expected a long drawn-out battle against the tobacco industry in the country.

"It seems that in the Philip-

ppines, the tobacco industry still has undue influence on political and legislative processes that are not appropriate at all and certainly don't occur in many of the neighboring countries," Prof. Judith Mackay, director of the Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control, told the INQUIRER.

'Total' ban

Mackay said the term "total ban" on tobacco advertising in 2008 needed to be stricken out from the measure because the ban would not really be "total."

"It's a long, long way from that. It excludes all sorts of things. In Hong Kong, for example, we now have a law prohibiting any person from putting tobacco advertising on the Internet. That is not in your law. There are text messages whereby

the tobacco industry can run around that law. It is not a total ban," she said.

Dr. Maricar B. Limpin, president of the Framework Convention Alliance Philippines, said that by 2008, tobacco advertising in the country would be banned from all forms of mass media, such as TV, radio, print, cinema and billboards, but there were areas that would be exempted, such as the point of sale of cigarettes.

In Asia, Singapore has enforced a total ban on cigarette advertising for 35 years and has banned duty-free cigarettes. Mongolia has one of the strictest tobacco controls in the world. Thailand also enforces an advertising ban, has designated smoke-free areas, and demands ingredient disclosure from cigarette manufacturers.

Anti-smoking confab

Delegates from Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Taiwan and the Philippines were in Manila recently to persuade health professionals to quit smoking and to be active in research and in lobbying for legislation concerning tobacco control.

The conference on the role of the health professionals in the battle against tobacco was organized by the South East Asia Tobacco Control Alliance in collaboration with the Department of Health, the Philippine Medical Association, the Framework Convention Alliance Philippines, Tobacco-Free Philippines and the World Health Organization's Tobacco-Free Initiative.

The delegates to the conference observed that the proposed

"sin" taxes on tobacco and alcohol would have no significant impact on the consumption of tobacco in the Philippines. They noted that only high-priced cigarettes would be covered by the measure.

"The only other country that imposes a lower tax [on tobacco] than the Philippines is Cambodia," said Mary Asunta of the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance.

Asunta said some Asian governments consult with the tobacco industry when drawing up tobacco control action or legislation. The government ends up compromising on its decisions and on its actions, she said.

Challenge to media

Dr. Daniel Tan, president of the Tobacco-Free Philippines Foundation, posed this challenge to media: "I don't believe there's such a thing as balanced news because media also has a responsibility in public health, and I believe it would always be a form of compromise when we accept tobacco advertisements."

"That's the tremendous challenge we're [posing] to media: how can you help on the issues of public health and tobacco control?"

A 1999 survey by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute showed that 33 percent of Filipinos were regular smokers, affecting nearly 60 percent of non-smokers.

Studies have indicated that secondhand smoke pose even more risks to public health than the filtered smoke inhaled by active smokers.

Math books, school transfers

IT'S NICE to know that parents are constantly attuned to their children's needs. Camilo Yambao [chyambao8@yahoo.com] asks about good math books:

I have two kids in school—one is in first year high school, the other one is in grade 5. I would greatly appreciate it if you could recommend the best books and training materials in mathematics for my two kids.

For my own kid, I make sure he finishes everything in his school textbook, but often, the exercises are not enough to make him master the topics. Supplementing classroom learning is a good idea. I have invested in Scholastic books and materials; aside from being practical, they are also entertaining and attractive for children.

Scholastic is a well-known US publisher, and is probably most famous for its "Harry Potter" books. It has a whole line of math and science workbooks (aside from a superb English series) from which you can choose to tailor to your children's needs. The only catch is that sometimes these books are not cheap, so I usually wait for a sale at National Bookstore.

Cheaper books

I have also found Singaporean and Malaysian workbooks challenging; these are available in major bookstores, and are a lot less expensive than US workbooks.

If you want local ones, I recommend the series "New Mathematics for Today" (originally published by the educational company Silver-Burdett Ginn in the States, and adapted for Philippine use by Anvil Publishing, with Dr. Jose Marasigan and myself as consultants). Call Anvil at 637-3621 or 5141 (talk to Lorie or Bong) or e-mail anvil@anvil.com.

If you want to know more about math learning at home (including the causes of math anxiety, tips on taking math exams, math games and puzzles, math applications in daily life), get hold of my book "Eureka!"

No suitable school

Another mother worries about a possible school transfer:

I am a mother of three, two girls and one boy, all of whom are enrolled in a well-known Catholic school in Manila. Our school's standard has been on a downhill trend since the death of its founder. I want to transfer my children to other schools, but I was unable to find a suitable one that would give them mastery in math, science and English. Friends and relatives are advising me not to transfer the children. What do you think? Do you know any school or tutor that gives special classes during summer? I am desperate, and I am getting conflicting opinions.

If your children are doing well and are happy with their current school, do not transfer them. I know you are worried about school standards, but believe me, your school is still better than a lot of other institutions. Basic standards in math, English and science are slipping in practically every school (there are a lot of reasons for this, including too many distractions, lack of motivation, and insufficient teacher training), but suffice it to say that your

EUREKA!

Queen N. Lee-Chua

school is still one of the "better" ones.

Searching for tutors

I have always believed that children learn best if they are intrinsically motivated, and that parents (more than schools) play a major role in its development. You are on the right track. If you are worried about standards (especially if you see that the children find no challenge in their present school), then by all means supplement classroom learning with other materials like the ones I mentioned above.

I am not enthusiastic about tutors, because many of them barely master the subjects they are supposed to teach. If you insist on tutors, then look first among your relatives. Do you have a niece or a cousin who can tutor your kids? Better still, can you tutor them yourself?

Studies have shown that commercial tutors do not help in the long run, but parental guidance goes a long way. You need a lot of patience and love to tutor your own kids, but the benefits are worth it.

Summer classes

There are a lot of summer classes for children, and their quality varies. However, I believe that summer should also be a time out from the pressures of the school year, so it may be a good idea to enroll your kids in other subjects such as art or music.

The exception is when your kids love math so much that they want to learn as much as they can about it—then you can scout around for a fun math class. (Many schools offer this, but again, the teaching quality is not consistent.)

As for me, I spend the summer helping my son do fun home activities for math, and ensure that he swims every day and goes to piano and art lessons regularly. Good luck.



Patients to bear 10% VAT on doctors

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

IT CAN get pretty depressing when doctors gather and talk about news in the medical community. I'm starting to think that one should take an antidepressant before getting into such conversations. This is probably one advantage of having Alzheimer's disease: you hear all the bad news and instantly, you forget them.

On the front page a few days ago was news about a proposal by our finance technocrats to reimpose the 10-percent VAT on doctors and lawyers. The move was aimed at raising revenue for the government. The VAT was enforced last year, revoked earlier this year, and probably will be back again next year.

Doctors would certainly be happy if the government could raise much-needed cash. But from whom will it raise the money and who will shoulder the additional tax burden?

The VAT is an additional tax imposed on the end-user of the product or service. If the proposal pushes through, it's not the doctors who will shoulder the tax; they will just be used as collection agents of the government from those who will avail of their (doctors') services.

The patients will actually pick up the tab. The government, instead of helping its people get well and remain healthy, will be taxing its citizens more so they could get well from their illness.

Govt's responsibility

I see no logic in this. In other countries, the government has a major responsibility of shouldering its citizens' healthcare expenses. A taxpayer who gets hospitalized does not pay a single cent for his medical bills.

Our government certainly cannot afford to do that and are begrudging it for this. But to be taxed an additional 10-percent for medical services borders on the ludicrous and farcical.

Indirectly, the doctors will probably be affected because more patients will think twice before seeking their services due to the additional 10-percent VAT. I think doctors would still be able to manage, but this might impact highly on the survival of many hospitals.

We hear from reliable sources that many hospitals are in the red. Even a few big hospitals in Metro Manila that are perceived to be financially stable are now scouting around for investors that could bail them out or are convincing their own medical staff to shell out some cash to keep their institutions afloat.

It's only proper that the medical staff share the burden of ensuring that the hospital gets over any problem that might threaten its survival. After all, the doctors earn their keep through the hospital. A doctor or healthcare professional will be helpless if he has no hospital to practice in.

Of course, a doctor can always transfer to another hospital that is doing well. But he'll probably feel

rotten if he does this without doing his fair share of helping his original hospital survive.

Charity work

Doctors' incomes have been significantly reduced these days, but the current financial crunch gives them an opportunity to render more charity work. Many patients can no longer afford the cost of hospitalization especially if they are confined for an emergency or something they have not prepared for.

In such cases, getting a big discount in the hospital bill is not possible, which is quite fair because the hospital incurred expenses in attending to the patient.

The doctor's professional fee is usually the easiest to get a significant discount from, or even be waived. The doctor gets emotionally and spiritually gratified at having done his share for God's glory. The government should probably get its 10-percent share in the goodwill.

Many doctors and healthcare professionals also hold medical-surgical missions especially in far-flung areas that may not have seen a doctor or a nurse for a long time.

It's good that these medical modern-day heroes have not been discouraged by what the media sometimes portrays them to be: as healthcare mercenaries who would not render service unless they're paid. Although it might be true in a few cases, majority of doctors give pro bono service to indigent patients without making a big fuss about what they're doing.

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If you want local ones, I recommend the series "New Mathematics for Today" (originally published by the educational company Silver-Burdett Ginn in the States, and adapted for Philippine use by Anvil Publishing, with Dr. Jose Marasigan and myself as consultants). Call Anvil at 637-3621 or 5141 (talk to Lorie or Bong) or e-mail anvil@anvil.com.

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ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Baking soda

MY DENTIST told me to add baking soda to my toothpaste because my saliva is acidic. What's your comment?—Lito I.

I personally do not recommend using baking soda when brushing because it is an abrasive agent that can wear out your tooth enamel. In the long run, the enamel, which is white, will thin out and the second layer, which is yellow, will become more visible.

If your saliva is acidic, it is recommended that you increase your water intake because it would increase the flow of your saliva.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

New guidelines issued on breast cancer treatment

THE AMERICAN Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) technology assessment panel recently announced a fundamental change in its guide on the use of aromatase inhibitors (AIs) in treating postmenopausal women with early breast cancer.

The ASCO panel has agreed that five years of tamoxifen was no longer the optimal treatment of choice, and has recommended that adjuvant therapy should include an AI, such as anastrozole, as initial therapy or after treatment with tamoxifen to reduce the risk of recurrence.

The panel said it was not known whether AIs were interchangeable in clinical practice; it thus favored using an agent with the most data relevant to each individual clinical setting.

Anastrozole is the most studied of all AIs and the only one with data to sup-

port its use as initial adjuvant therapy. Evidence-based medicine suggests that anastrozole should be the preferred choice if an AI is to replace tamoxifen.

The panel's endorsement is based on the compelling evidence provided by the Atac (Arimidex, Tamoxifen, Alone or in Combination) trial 2.

The first five years following initial surgery is the period during which women are most at risk of breast cancer recurrence, and current data show that anastrozole is significantly more effective than tamoxifen in reducing this risk.

Furthermore, the incidence of three life-threatening side effects associated with tamoxifen—endometrial cancer, thromboembolic events and stroke—are also significantly reduced with anastrozole.

The most frequent side effects associ-

ated with anastrozole are hot flashes, vaginal dryness and hair thinning.

Said Prof. Anthony Howell of Christie Hospital, Manchester, United Kingdom, on the ASCO panel's recommendation: "Although doctors have been aware of the benefits anastrozole offers over tamoxifen, many have been awaiting reassurance from guidelines committees such as ASCO before changing their prescribing habits. This is a milestone in the treatment of early breast cancer. More women will now be able to benefit from the greater protection that anastrozole provides against the cancer coming back, along with a better tolerability profile."

The ASCO panel recognizes that women who have already started a course of adjuvant tamoxifen are more likely to remain free of the disease if they have their therapy changed to an AI. Thus,

the panel recommends that women on tamoxifen consider switching to an AI such as anastrozole.

Greatest benefit

Professor Howell said: "I am pleased that ASCO has also recognized the value in offering women the opportunity to change their therapy from tamoxifen to an AI to help improve their chances of remaining disease-free."

The ASCO panel said it was still awaiting further data, particularly on long-term toxicity, before making its final recommendations on the use of adjuvant AIs.

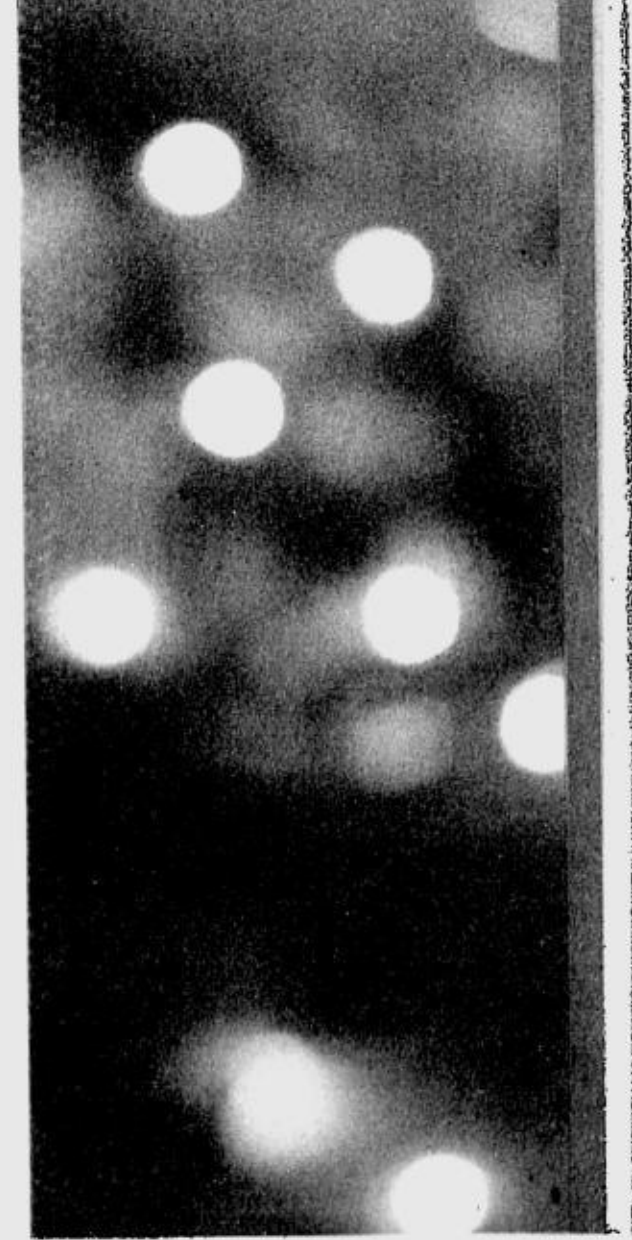
Anastrozole is marketed in the Philippines as Arimidex by AstraZeneca. It is available only on prescription and is to be taken only under the supervision of a physician trained in the management of breast cancer.



One Central Park

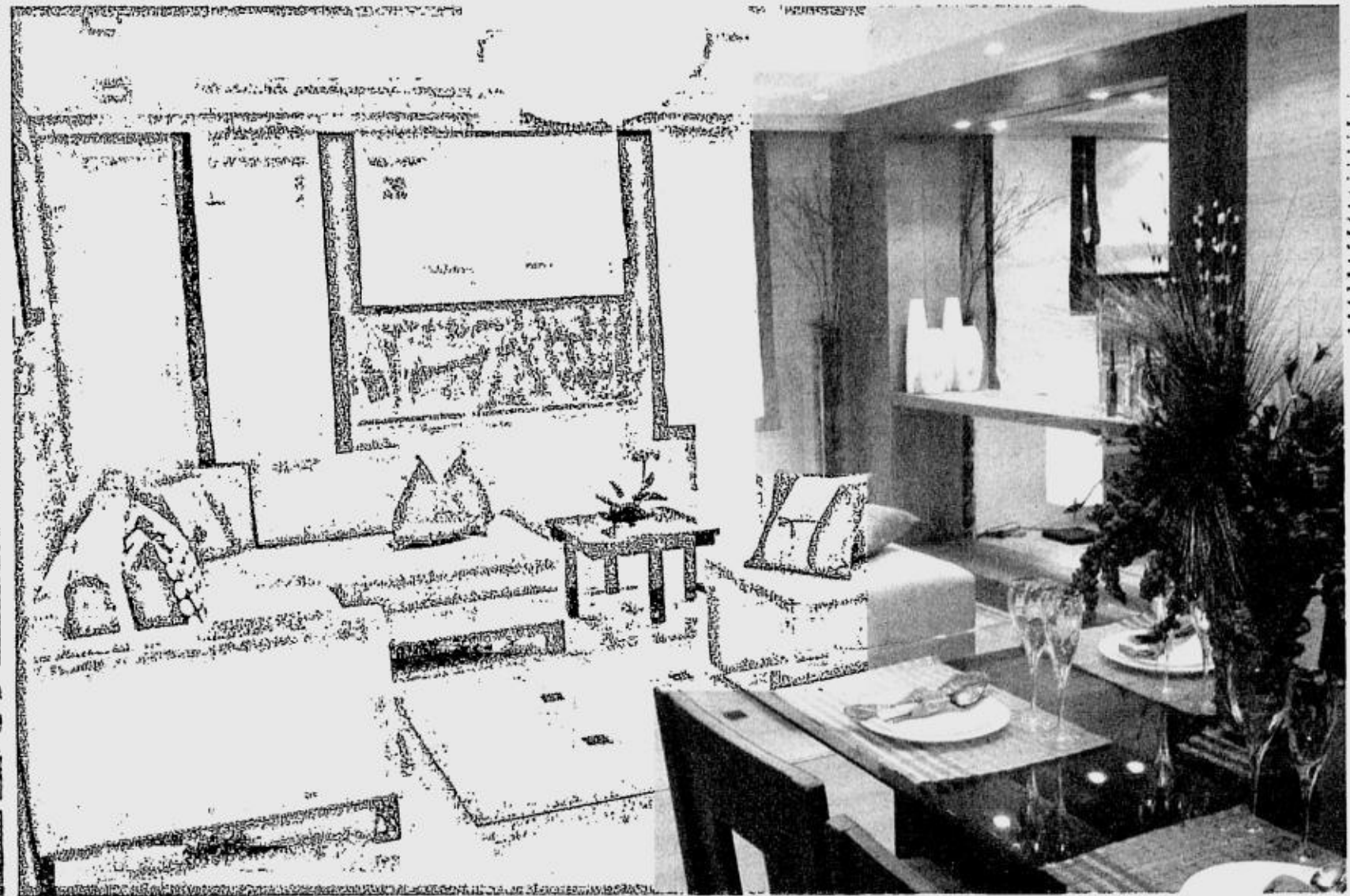
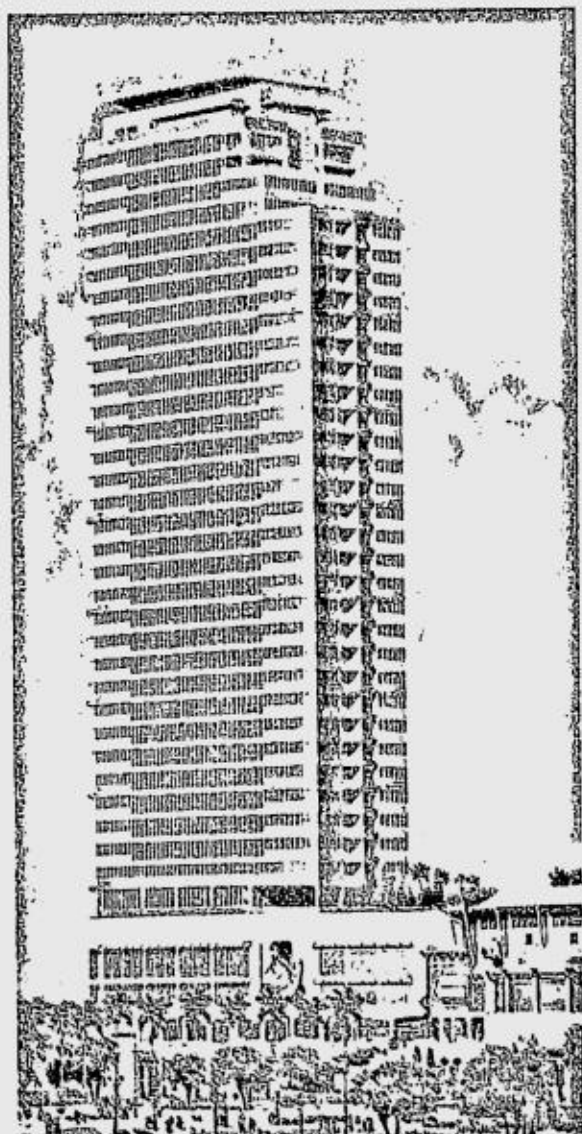
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HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

8th Floor Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Bidding Committee shall conduct a public bidding for the sale of the following acquired residential properties on December 23, THURSDAY, 2:00 PM at 8th FLR., Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
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BULACAN AREA

BELMONT PARK VILLAGE					
Bo. Cayombo Sta Maria Bulacan					
1	BLK 15 LOT 30	T-344550(M)	22.00	38.50	255,479.65

CARISSA HOMES NORTH					
Bo. Sto Cristo San Jose Del Monte Bulacan					
2	BLK 01 LOT 04 PH 5C	T-35287P (M)	20.62	55.00	170,162.87

CITYVILLE HOMES					
Bo. Tungkong Mangga, San Jose Del Monte Bulacan					
3	BLK 08 LOT 05	T-202746(M)	31.50	35.00	233,325.95
4	BLK 10 LOT 06	T-202802(M)	31.50	35.00	233,325.95

HARMONY HILLS SUBD					
Bo. Muzon San Jose Del Monte Bulacan					
5	BLK 02 LOT 82 PH I	T-195568(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
6	BLK 12 LOT 48 PH I	T-197220(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
7	BLK 13 LOT 41 PH I	T-197277 (M)	24.00	57.00	305,512.12
8	BLK 19 LOT 11 PH II	T-266054(M)	20.00	35.00	196,563.59
9	BLK 19 LOT 16 PH II	T-266059(M)	20.00	35.00	159,341.98
10	BLK 21 LOT 57 PH I	T-197681(M)	24.00	57.00	179,039.30
11	BLK 23 LOT 30 PH I	T-197782(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
12	BLK 26 LOT 28 PH I	T-197970(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
13	BLK 29 LOT 69 PH I	T-198205	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
14	BLK 30 LOT 21 PH I	T-198251(M)	24.00	59.00	210,484.12
15	BLK 52 LOT 03 PH I	T-200107(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62

MELODY PLAINS SUBD					
Bo. Sta Maria Meycauyan Bulacan					
16	BLK 14 LOT 22	T-243620(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
17	BLK 25 LOT 12	T-243857(M)	20.16	39.60	179,726.10
18	BLK 29 LOT 13	T-243952(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
19	BLK 39 LOT 19	T-244208(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
20	BLK 48 LOT 17	T-244523(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
21	BLK 51 LOT 19	T-244592(M)	20.16	39.60	173,272.00
22	BLK 63 LOT 20 & 20	T-244919(M)20M	20.16	81.40	296,174.26
23	BLK 95 LOT 09	T-245764(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
24	BLK 99 LOT 12	T-245856(M)	20.16	39.60	158,628.59

NORTHBRIDGE					
Bo. Sto Cristo SJDM Bulacan					
25	BLK 06 LOT 37	T-363764(M)	36.00	44.00	216,355.25

NORTHWINDS CITY					
Bo. Sto Cristo SJDM Bulacan					
26	BLK 09 LOT 10 PH 4C	T-55288P(M)	25.00	60.00	276,119.64
27	BLK 07 LOT 16 PH 3B	T-272865(M)	25.00	79.00	236,455.33

SARMIENTO HOMES					
Bo. Muzon SJDM Bulacan					
28	BLK 22 LOT 37	T-236497(M)	26.40	60.00	341,075.20
29	BLK 28 LOT 75	T-426288(M)	26.40	40.00	193,764.36
30	BLK 31 LOT 08	T-235768(M)	20.72	40.00	220,740.64
31	BLK 50 LOT 45	T-203699P(M)	26.40	40.00	224,332.80

WOODBIDGE					
Bo. Poblacion Pandi Bulacan					
32	BLK 64 LOT 07	T-353689(M)	20.00	42.00	151,396.12

CAVITE AREA

ARMSTRONG VILLAGE					
Bo. Salawag, Dasmariñas Cavite					
33	BLK 02 LOT 67	T-543426	21.00	38.00	189,418.13
34	BLK 04 LOT 16	T-543589	21.00	38.00	189,418.13

BELLEVUE MEADOWS					
Bo. Bagtas Tanza Cavite					
35	BLK 01 LOT 09 SEC 33	T-605186	20.16	39.60	189,382.01
36	BLK 05 LOT 13 SEC 34	T-605423	20.16	39.60	172,434.98

BELVEDERE					
Bo. Pasong Kawayan Gen Trias Cavite					
Bo. Quintana Tanza Cavite					
37	BLK 01 LOT 03 & 04 SEC 07 PH I	T-672907A/906A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25
38	BLK 01 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH II	T-666560	20.12	38.50	197,519.95
39	BLK 01 LOT 06 SEC 04 PH II	T-667000	20.12	38.50	184,867.92
40	BLK 01 LOT 06 SEC 08 PH III	T-732650	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
41	BLK 01 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-672911A/913A	20.12	77.00	318,806.25
42	BLK 01 LOT 08 SEC 02 PH II	T-666562	20.12	38.50	208,753.63
43	BLK 01 LOT 08 SEC 03 PH II	T-666762	20.12	38.50	208,804.91
44	BLK 01 LOT 08 SEC 10 PH III	T-732823	20.12	36.00	193,134.86
45	BLK 01 LOT 09 & 11 SEC 05 PH I	T-671032/34	20.12	77.00	325,276.72
46	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 02 PH II	T-732825	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
47	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 02 PH II	T-666564	20.12	38.50	208,181.62
48	BLK 01 LOT 102 & 103 SEC 10 PH II	T-674040A/41A	20.12	77.00	330,253.16
49	BLK 01 LOT 104 & 105 SEC 10 PH II	T-674042A/4043A	20.12	74.50	317,801.72
50	BLK 01 LOT 112 SEC 10 PH I	T-674050-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
51	BLK 01 LOT 115 & 116 SEC 10 PH II	T-674054-A	20.12	84.00	307,913.39
52	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH II	T-666589	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
53	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 09 PH I	T-673628-A	20.12	38.50	213,334.99
54	BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-665900	20.12	38.50	180,470.20
55	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 02 PH II	T-666570	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
56	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 04 PH II	T-667010	20.12	38.50	206,601.33
57	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH III	T-732831	20.12	36.00	171,081.52
58	BLK 01 LOT 18 SEC 02 PH II	T-666572	20.12	35.00	181,126.41
59	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 01 PH II	T-665905	20.12	38.50	211,216.22
60	BLK 01 LOT 20 SEC 04 PH II	T-667014	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
61	BLK 01 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH II	T-665907	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
62	BLK 01 LOT 22 & 24 SEC 07 PH I	T-672925-A/927A	20.12	77.00	325,276.72
63	BLK 01 LOT 22 & 24 SEC 09 PH I	T-673638A/640A	20.12	38.50	326,323.25
64	BLK 01 LOT 22 SEC 02 PH II	T-666576	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
65	BLK 01 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-672928-A	20.12	38.50	212,711.42
66	BLK 01 LOT 26 SEC 04 PH II	T-667020	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
67	BLK 01 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH II	T-665913	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
68	BLK 01 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672370-A	20.12	38.50	212,066.57
69	BLK 01 LOT 28 SEC 10 PH III	T-732843	20.12	36.00	196,148.03
70	BLK 01 LOT 29 & 31 SEC 04 PH II	T-667023/025	20.12	77.00	305,383.68
71	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 02 PH II	T-666584	20.12	38.50	210,537.54
72	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 04 PH II	T-667024	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
73	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 08 PH III	T-732874	20.12	36.00	174,798.65
74	BLK 01 LOT 34 SEC 02 PH II	T-666788	20.12	38.50	203,237.09
75	BLK 01 LOT 34 SEC 04 PH II	T-667028	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
76	BLK 01 LOT 36 SEC 03 PH II	T-666790	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
77	BLK 01 LOT 36 SEC 07 PH I	T-672939-A	20.12	38.50	211,950.23
78	BLK 01 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 02 PH II	T-666591/93	20.12	77.00	337,046.35
79	BLK 01 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 04 PH II	T-667033/031	20.12	77.00	266,746.70
80	BLK 01 LOT 38 SEC 10 PH III	T-732853	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
81	BLK 01 LOT 41 SEC 01 PH I	T-667326	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
82	BLK 01 LOT 46 SEC 01 PH I	T-667331	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
83	BLK 01 LOT 56 & 57 SEC 10 PH I	T-673994A/995A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25
84	BLK 01 LOT 92 & 93 SEC 10 PH I	T-674030A/4031A	20.12	77.00	289,139.39
85	BLK 02 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 02 PH III	T-662631/629	20.12	72.00	297,904.86
86	BLK 02 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 10 PH III	T-328860/652	20.12	36.00	304,317.12
87	BLK 02 LOT 02 SEC 09 PH I	T-673642	20.12	38.50	198,923.30
88	BLK 02 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH I	T-673640	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
89	BLK 02 LOT 05 SEC 08 PH III	T-732688	20.12	36.00	194,238.09
90	BLK 02 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH II	T-666600	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
91	BLK 02 LOT 06 SEC 03 PH II	T-666600	20.12	38.50	207,774.42
92	BLK 02 LOT 06 SEC 04 PH II	T-667040	20.12	38.50	204,187.21
93	BLK 02 LOT 06 SEC 10 PH III	T-732864	20.12	36.00	188,450.08
94	BLK 02 LOT 07 SEC 01 PH I	T-667342	20.12	38.50	177,503.42
95	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 02 PH II	T-666602	20.12	38.50	164,443.38
96	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 04 PH II	T-667042	20.12	38.50	194,364.12
97	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 10 PH III	T-732866	20.12	36.00	182,710.52
98	BLK 02 LOT 09 SEC 09 PH I	T-673649A	20.12	38.50	193,134.86
99	BLK 02 LOT 10 SEC 15 PH III	T-733441	20.12	36.00	190,370.41
100	BLK 02 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH II	T-665927	20.12	38.50	190,670.98
101	BLK 02 LOT 11 SEC 07 PH I	T-672954A	20.12	38.50	207,122.91
102	BLK 02 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH I	T-667347	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
103	BLK 02 LOT 12 SEC 03 PH II	T-666606	20.12	38.50	197,034.55
104	BLK 02 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-672955A	20.12	38.50	197,034.55
105	BLK 02 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 04 PH II	T-667047/49	20.12	77.00	301,426.29
106	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 08 PH I	T-673484	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
107	BLK 02 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-665930	20.12	38.50	197,519.95
108	BLK 02 LOT 15 SEC 08 PH I	T-673406A	20.12	38.50	204,848.03
109	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH II	T-665932	20.12	38.50	211,390.72
110	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 02 PH II	T-666610	20.12	38.50	205,466.97
111	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 08 PH I	T-673674	20.12	38.50	215,060.41
112	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 08 PH III	T-732869	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
113	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH III	T-732874	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
114	BLK 02 LOT 17 SEC 01 PH I	T-665933	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
115	BLK 02 LOT 18 & 20 SEC 08 PH I	T-673489/673491	20.12	77.00	305,383.68
116	BLK 02 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-665934	20.12	38.50	207,144.24
117	BLK 02 LOT 18 SEC 04 PH II	T-667052	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
118	BLK 02 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-665935	20.12	38.50	209,897.66
119	BLK 02 LOT 19 SEC 08 PH III	T-732702	20.12	36.00	190,370.41

LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
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120	BLK 02 LOT 20 SEC 01 PH II	T-665936	20.12	38.50	198,244.08
121	BLK 02 LOT 20 SEC 04 PH II	T-667054	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
122	BLK 02 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-672964A	20.12	38.50	169,047.98
123	BLK 02 LOT 25 & 27 SEC 05 PH I	T-671090/088	20.12	77.00	292,749.05
124	BLK 02 LOT 25 SEC 01 PH II	T-665941	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
125	BLK 02 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-672969A/71	20.12	77.00	288,695.39
126	BLK 02 LOT 26 SEC 01 PH II	T-665942	20.12	38.50	209,151.13
127	BLK 02 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH II	T-665943	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
128	BLK 02 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672410-A	20.12	38.50	200,015.49
129	BLK 02 LOT 29 & 31 SEC 04 PH II	T-667063/65	20.12	77.00	337,048.35
130	BLK 02 LOT 29 SEC 06 PH I	T-672412-A	20.12	38.50	208,336.74
131	BLK 02 LOT 30 SEC 03 PH II	T-666824	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
132	BLK 02 LOT 30 SEC 05 PH I	T-671093	20.12	38.50	177,331.10
133	BLK 02 LOT 31 SEC 03 PH I	T-667667	20.12	38.50	197,901.95
134	BLK 02 LOT 32 SEC 03 PH II	T-666826	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
135	BLK 02 LOT 34 & 36 SEC 04 PH I	T-670751/753	20.12	74.00	373,526.54
136	BLK 02 LOT 35 SEC 02 PH II	T-666654	20.12	38.50	188,785.74
137	BLK 02 LOT 36 SEC 03 PH II	T-666830	20.12	38.50	200,309.15
138	BLK 02 LOT 36 SEC 06 PH I	T-672419-A	20.12	38.50	274,681.57
139	BLK 02 LOT 43 SEC 06 PH III	T-732219	20.12	36.00	198,128.74
140	BLK 03 LOT 03 SEC 06 PH III	T-732230	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
141	BLK 03 LOT 04 & 05 SEC 08 PH III	T-732715/714	20.12	88.00	348,152.99
142	BLK 03 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH II	T-665951	20.12	38.50	208,802.11
143	BLK 03 LOT 05 SEC 04 PH III	T-692974	20.12	36.00	179,772.91
144	BLK 03 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH II	T-665952	20.12	54.00	260,312.80
145	BLK 03 LOT 06 SEC 08 PH I	T-673503	20.12	38.50	190,939.34
146	BLK 03 LOT 06 SEC 10 PH III	T-732890	20.12	36.00	175,060.90
147	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-672932A/990A	20.12	77.00	337,910.93
148	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 09 PH I	T-672680A/662A	20.12	77.00	321,838.29
149	BLK 03 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 09 PH I	T-673651A/63A	20.12	77.00	298,620.99
150	BLK 03 LOT 09 SEC 08 PH I	T-673506A	20.12	38.50	203,017.99
151	BLK 03 LOT 10 SEC 08 PH I	T-673507	20.12	38.50	210,216.66
152	BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 04 PH II	T-667085	20.12	38.50	210,120.69
153	BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 07 PH I	T-672994-A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
154	BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 10 PH III	T-732895	20.12	36.00	192,873.05
155	BLK 03 LOT 12 SEC 06 PH III	T-732239	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
156	BLK 03 LOT 12 SEC 10 PH III	T-732896	20.12	36.00	194,511.57
157	BLK 03 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH I	T-667374	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
158	BLK 03 LOT 15 SEC 10 PH III	T-732899	20.12	36.00	190,439.69
159	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 03 PH II	T-666850	20.12	38.50	208,802.11
160	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH III	T-732243	20.12	36.00	177,892.03
161	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 07 PH I	T-672999-A	20.12	38.50	194,870.41
162	BLK 03 LOT 17 SEC 06 PH III	T-732244	20.12	36.00	193,989.03
163	BLK 03 LOT 18 SEC 04 PH II	T-667092	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
164	BLK 03 LOT 18 SEC 08 PH I	T-673515-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.89
165	BLK 03 LOT 19 & 21 SEC 06 PH III	T-732248/732248	20.12	73.00	297,974.38
166	BLK 03 LOT 21 & 23 SEC 01 PH I	T-667329/380	20.12	72.00	306,823.35
167	BLK 03 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH II	T-666967	20.12	38.50	208,113.79
168	BLK 03 LOT 24 & 26 SEC 10 PH III	T-732910/06	20.12	81.00	289,605.33
169	BLK 03 LOT 24 SEC 04 PH II	T-667098	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
170	BLK 03 LOT 25 SEC 04 PH II	T-667099	20.12	38.50	207,608.66
171	BLK 03 LOT 26 SEC 07 PH I	T-673009-A	20.12	38.50	191,905.45
172	BLK 03 LOT 27 SEC 02 PH II	T-666846	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
173	BLK 03 LOT 27 SEC 04 PH II	T-667101	20.12	38.50	206,339.59
174	BLK 03 LOT 31 SEC 03 PH II	T-666865	20.12	53.00	254,891.57
175	BLK 03 LOT 32 SEC 03 PH II	T-666866	20.12	38.50	200,425.48
176	BLK 03 LOT 32 SEC 08 PH III	T-732742	20.12	36.00	185,619.09
177	BLK 03 LOT 36 SEC 04 PH II	T-667110	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
178	BLK 03 LOT 36 SEC 08 PH III	T-732746	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
179	BLK 03 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 03 PH II	T-666827/874	20.12	77.00	266,247.59
180	BLK 03 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 07 PH I	T-673021/023	20.12	38.50	337,755.26
181	BLK 03 LOT 38 SEC 09 PH III	T-732748	20.12	36.00	173,332.72
182	BLK 04 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 02 PH II	T-666651/665	20.12	62.50	353,439.33
183	BLK 04 LOT 03 & 04 SEC 02 PH I	T-666457/883	20.12	77.00	320,915.48
184	BLK 04 LOT 03 SEC 09 PH I	T-732785	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
185	BLK 04 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 01 PH II	T-665977/1979	20.12	77.00	320,760.69
186	BLK 04 LOT 05 SEC 03 PH I	T-666879	20.12	38.50	209,267.47
187	BLK 04 LOT 05 SEC 04 PH II	T-667119	20.12	38.50	197,807.89
188	BLK 04 LOT 05 SEC 05 PH I	T-671152	20.12	38.50	167,027.89
189	BLK 04 LOT 05 SEC 10 PH III	T-732915	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
190	BLK 04 LOT 07 SEC 02 PH II	T-666866	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
191	BLK 04 LOT 07 SEC 04 PH II	T-667121	20.12	38.50	197,807.89
192	BLK 04 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 08 PH I	T-673527A/525A	20.12	70.00	317,771.00
193	BLK 04 LOT 08 SEC 03 PH II	T-666882	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
194	BLK 04 LOT 08 SEC 09 PH I	T-673685A	20.12	38.50	191,225.59
195	BLK 04 LOT 09 SEC 04 PH II	T-667123	20.12	38.50	206,252.22
196	BLK 04 LOT 09 SEC 10 PH III	T-732919	20.12	36.00	192,534.74
197	BLK 04 LOT 10 SEC 36 PH I	T-616578	20.12	40.50	194,044.22
198	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 08 PH III	T-732773	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
199	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 10 PH III	T-732921	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
200	BLK 04 LOT 12 SEC 03 PH II	T-666886	20.12	38.50	201,168.15
201	BLK 04 LOT 12 SEC 04 PH II	T-667126	20.12	38.50	200,163.74
202	BLK 04 LOT 13 SEC 10 PH III	T-732923	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
203	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 02 PH II	T-666673	20.12	38.50	210,014.04
204	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 03 PH II	T-666888	20.12	36.00	214,552.33
205	BLK 04 LOT 15 SEC 02 PH II	T-666674	20.12	38.50	211,390.70
206	BLK 04 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-673038-A	20.12	38.50	191,822.25
207	BLK 04 LOT 15 SEC 09 PH I	T-673692-A	20.12	57.00	262,039.33
208	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 04 PH II	T-667130	20.12	38.50	166,545.53
209	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH I	T-672479-A	20.12	38.50	209,158.90
210	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH III	T-732926	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
211	BLK 04 LOT 17 SEC 02 PH II	T-666676	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
212	BLK 04 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-665990	20.12	38.50	212,592.12
213	BLK 04 LOT 19 SEC 10 PH III	T-732929	20.12	36.00	177,892.03
214	BLK 04 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH II	T-666894	20.12	38.50	210,120.69
215	BLK 04 LOT 20 SEC 04 PH II	T-667134	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
216	BLK 04 LOT 21 SEC 02 PH II	T-666680	20.12	38.50	210,120.69
217	BLK 04 LOT 22 SEC 04 PH II	T-667136	20.12	38.50	207,774.33
218	BLK 04 LOT 22 SEC 08 PH III	T-732784	20.12	36.00	185,619.09
219	BLK 04 LOT 23 SEC 03 PH II	T-666897	20.12	38.50	208,666.66
220	BLK 04 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673048-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.89
221	BLK 04 LOT 26 SEC 05 PH I	T-671173	20.12	37.00	176,121.41
222	BLK 04 LOT 29 SEC 03 PH II	T-666903	20.12	38.50	209,151.13
223	BLK 04 LOT 29 SEC 04 PH II	T-667143	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
224	BLK 04 LOT 32 SEC 04 PH II	T-667146	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
225	BLK 04 LOT 32 SEC 08 PH III	T-732794	20.12	36.00	185,880.40
226	BLK 04 LOT 34 SEC 02 PH II	T-666893	20.12	38.50	206,359.89
227	BLK 04 LOT 34 SEC 03 PH II	T-666908	20.12	38.50	189,070.99
228	BLK 04 LOT 34 SEC 06 PH III	T-732282	20.12	38.50	196,671.57
229	BLK 04 LOT 34 SEC 08 PH III	T-732796	20.12	36.00	182,506.19
230	BLK 04 LOT 35 SEC 03 PH II	T-666909	20.12	38.50	189,345.26
231	BLK 04 LOT 36 SEC 02 PH II	T-666695	20.12	38.50	188,323.43
232	BLK 04 LOT 36 SEC 04 PH II	T-667150	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
233	BLK 04 LOT 38 SEC 08 PH III	T-732800	20.12	36.00	188,450.99
234	BLK 04 LOT 38 SEC 08 PH III	T-732801	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
235	BLK 04 LOT 42 SEC 08 PH III	T-732804	20.12	36.00	182,448.48
236	BLK 04 LOT 43 SEC 08 PH III	T-732805	20.12	36.00	192,105.48
237	BLK 04 LOT 49 SEC 10 PH III	T-732959	20.12	36.00	173,184.48
238	BLK 04 LOT 50 SEC 08 PH II	T-732812	20.12	36.00	193,976.66
239	BLK 05 LOT 00 SEC 02 PH II	T-6668705	20.12	38.50	209,946.66
240	BLK 05 LOT 06 SEC 09 PH I	T-673701	20.12	35.00	189,521.11
241	BLK 05 LOT 07 SEC 09 PH I	T-673702	20.12	35.00	189,521.11
242	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 04 PH II	T-667162	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
243	BLK 05 LOT 09 SEC 05 PH I	T-671194	20.12	38.50	187,155.48
244	BLK 05 LOT 09 SEC 08 PH I	T-673537-A	20.12	38.50	188,638.33
245	BLK 05 LOT 09 & 10 SEC 01 PH I	T-666808/07	20.12	110.00	419,408.00
246	BLK 05 LOT 10 SEC 03 PH II	T-666924	20.12	38.50	167,956.66
247	BLK 05 LOT 11 SEC 08 PH I	T-673539A	20.12	38.50	182,512.12
248	BLK 05 LOT 12 SEC 05 PH I	T-671197	20.12	38.50	213,285.59
249	BLK 05 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-673076-A	20.12	38.50	199,996.66
250	BLK 05 LOT 14 SEC 03 PH II	T-666928	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
251	BLK 05 LOT 14 SEC 35 PH I	T-615395	20.12	38.80	191,594.48
252	BLK 05 LOT 15 SEC 06 PH III	T-732301	20.12	38.50	190,602.00
253	BLK 05 LOT 16 SEC 09 PH I	T-673711	20.12	35.00	184,440.00
254	BLK 05 LOT 17 SEC 03 PH I	T-667773	20.12	38.50	210,304.00
255	BLK 05 LOT 17 SEC 06 PH III	T-732303	20.12	36.00	177,892.03
256	BLK 05 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-673080-A	20.12	38.50	199,998.88
257	BLK 05 LOT 18 SEC 06 PH III	T-732304	20.12	36.00	184,969.66
258	BLK 05 LOT 19 SEC 06 PH III	T-732305	20.12	36.00	193,481.11
259	BLK 05 LOT 19 SEC 09 PH I	T-673714-A	20.12	38.50	202,153.33
260	BLK 05 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH II	T-666934	20.12	38.50	211,099.66
261	BLK 05 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-673084-A	20.12	38.50	213,466.66
262	BLK 05 LOT 24 SEC 07 PH I	T-673087	20.12	38.50	214,507.89
263	BLK 05 LOT 24 SEC 10 PH III	T-782985	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
264	BLK 05 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673088-A	20.12	38.50	199,998.88
265	BLK 05 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672530	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
266	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-673091A	20.12	38.50	214,498.88
267	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 09 PH I	T-673723-A	20.12	35.00	186,857.77
268	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 10 PH III	T-732969	20.12	36.00	172,870.00
269	BLK 05 LOT 29 SEC 07 PH I	T-673092-A	20.12	38.50	199,998.88
270	BLK 06 LOT 30 & 32 SEC 05 PH I	T-671217/15	20.12	74.00	331,115.55
271	BLK 06 LOT 31 SEC 04 PH II	T-667185	20.12	38.50	208,065.55
272	BLK 06 LOT 31 SEC 07 PH I	T-673094-A	20.12	38.50	199,998.88
273	BLK 06 LOT 31 SEC 10 PH III	T-732992	20.12	36.00	196,671

LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
451 BLK 12 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH II	T-666101	20.12	36.00	206,672.80	621 BLK 36 LOT 51	T-9668	30.00	75.00	392,469.80	761 BLK 01 LOT 11 SEC 11 PH I	T-691295	20.12	35.00	178,165.20
452 BLK 12 LOT 12 SEC 08 PH I	T-673892-A	20.12	36.50	214,507.80	622 BLK 37 LOT 10	T-22003	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	762 BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 09 PH I	T-690900	20.12	35.00	190,024.96
453 BLK 12 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH II	T-666105	20.12	36.00	206,672.80	623 BLK 38 LOT 31	T-22099	24.50	39.00	249,556.40	763 BLK 01 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 08 PH I	T-690449/451	20.12	70.00	296,243.95
454 BLK 12 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-673349-A	20.12	36.50	199,986.51	624 BLK 38 LOT 50	T-22118	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	764 BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 05 PH I	T-690219	20.12	35.00	167,646.61
455 BLK 12 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-666107	20.12	36.00	165,338.24	625 BLK 38 LOT 69	T-22137	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	765 BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 08 PH I	T-690757	20.12	35.00	189,404.78
456 BLK 12 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-673353-A	20.12	36.50	192,710.52	626 BLK 38 LOT 27	T-22170	24.50	39.00	265,989.97	766 BLK 01 LOT 15 SEC 04 PH II	T-749481	20.12	35.00	154,701.68
457 BLK 12 LOT 23 SEC 07 PH I	T-673365-A	20.12	36.50	192,710.52	627 BLK 39 LOT 29	T-22172	24.50	39.00	249,556.40	767 BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH I	T-690452	20.12	35.00	160,371.61
458 BLK 12 LOT 25 SEC 06 PH I	T-672608-A	20.12	36.50	210,304.66	628 BLK 45 LOT 14	T-21649	24.50	39.00	266,527.52	768 BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH II	T-750025	20.12	35.00	179,414.04
459 BLK 12 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673357-A	20.12	36.50	213,526.44	629 BLK 45 LOT 30	T-21665	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	769 BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH I	T-690993	20.12	35.00	156,735.51
460 BLK 12 LOT 26 SEC 07 PH I	T-673358	20.12	36.50	214,507.80	630 BLK 45 LOT 31	T-21666	24.50	39.00	266,982.10	770 BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 05 PH II	T-749751	20.12	35.00	182,455.44
461 BLK 12 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672810-A	20.12	36.50	190,074.61	631 BLK 45 LOT 35	T-21670	24.50	39.00	249,556.40	771 BLK 01 LOT 18 SEC 10 PH I	T-690995	20.12	35.00	178,014.75
462 BLK 12 LOT 28 SEC 08 PH I	T-673908-A	20.12	41.00	209,200.68	632 BLK 45 LOT 38	T-21673	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	772 BLK 01 LOT 19 & 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-690531/29	20.12	70.00	269,724.56
463 BLK 12 LOT 28 SEC 06 PH I	T-672813-A	20.12	36.50	190,330.17	633 BLK 45 LOT 42	T-21677	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	773 BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 13 PH I	T-691817	20.12	35.00	160,390.30
464 BLK 12 LOT 33 SEC 03 PH I	T-670810	20.12	36.50	212,066.57	634 BLK 45 LOT 48	T-21683	24.50	39.00	269,746.47	774 BLK 01 LOT 20 SEC 05 PH II	T-749753	20.12	35.00	159,748.03
465 BLK 12 LOT 33 SEC 05 PH I	T-672336-A	20.12	36.50	202,492.27	635 BLK 47 LOT 17	T-22200	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	775 BLK 02 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 13 PH I	T-691829/631	20.12	75.00	269,256.02
466 BLK 12 LOT 33 SEC 06 PH I	T-672816-A	20.12	36.50	207,829.79	636 BLK 47 LOT 32	T-22305	24.50	39.00	269,746.47	776 BLK 02 LOT 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-690541	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
467 BLK 12 LOT 34 SEC 07 PH I	T-673365-A	20.12	36.50	199,986.51	637 BLK 47 LOT 34	T-22307	24.50	39.00	249,556.40	777 BLK 02 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-690544	20.12	35.00	187,482.68
468 BLK 13 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH II	T-666117	20.12	36.00	192,151.51	638 BLK 47 LOT 36	T-22309	24.50	39.00	265,317.87	778 BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 11 PH I	T-691321	20.12	35.00	178,165.20
469 BLK 13 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-673382A/390A	20.12	75.00	286,004.39	639 BLK 47 LOT 37	T-22310	24.50	39.00	266,793.94	779 BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 13 PH I	T-691337	20.12	35.00	161,368.98
470 BLK 13 LOT 08 SEC 01 PH II	T-666120	20.12	36.00	157,800.29	640 BLK 48 LOT 23 & 24	T-22342/343	24.50	78.00	540,404.75	780 BLK 02 LOT 15 SEC 09 PH I	T-690927	20.12	35.00	188,147.45
471 BLK 13 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-673384-A	20.12	36.00	213,012.60	641 BLK 48 LOT 27	T-22346	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	781 BLK 02 LOT 15 SEC 13 PH I	T-691839	20.12	35.00	180,280.58
472 BLK 13 LOT 12 SEC 09 PH I	T-673920-A	20.12	36.50	214,507.80	642 BLK 48 LOT 33	T-22352	24.50	39.00	251,466.86	782 BLK 02 LOT 21 SEC 1A PH I	T-668943	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
473 BLK 13 LOT 13 SEC 07 PH I	T-673385-A	20.12	36.50	214,507.80	643 BLK 48 LOT 52	T-22365	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	783 BLK 02 LOT 22 SEC 05 PH II	T-749778	20.12	35.00	179,702.89
474 BLK 13 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-666126	20.12	36.00	165,338.24	644 BLK 48 LOT 58	T-22371	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	784 BLK 02 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH I	T-688227	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
475 BLK 13 LOT 14 SEC 09 PH I	T-673922	20.12	36.50	212,711.42	645 BLK 48 LOT 55	T-22374	24.50	39.00	254,506.22	785 BLK 02 LOT 24 SEC 1A PH I	T-688946	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
476 BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH II	T-666127	20.12	36.00	167,959.32	646 BLK 48 LOT 06	T-21694	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	786 BLK 02 LOT 28 SEC 05 PH II	T-749784	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
477 BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 03 PH I	T-670632	20.12	36.50	190,650.50	647 BLK 49 LOT 14	T-21702	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	787 BLK 02 LOT 30 SEC 05 PH II	T-749786	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
478 BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-673787A	20.12	36.50	192,710.52	648 BLK 49 LOT 21	T-21709	24.50	39.00	259,687.62	788 BLK 02 LOT 31 SEC 03 PH I	T-689669	20.12	35.00	195,546.82
479 BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 01 PH II	T-666129	20.12	36.00	165,338.24	649 BLK 49 LOT 31	T-21719	24.50	39.00	249,556.40	789 BLK 02 LOT 32 SEC 04 PH II	T-749530	20.12	35.00	184,621.80
480 BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 03 PH I	T-670634	20.12	36.50	212,066.57	650 BLK 49 LOT 37	T-21725	24.50	39.00	246,024.95	790 BLK 02 LOT 33 SEC 03 PH I	T-689671	20.12	35.00	172,123.01
481 BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-673389-A	20.12	36.50	213,493.99	651 BLK 49 LOT 38	T-21726	24.50	62.00	349,498.21	791 BLK 03 LOT 03 & 04 SEC 04 PH I	T-689957/58	20.12	75.00	287,273.39
482 BLK 13 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-670636	20.12	36.50	175,520.23	652 BLK 49 LOT 46	T-21734	24.50	39.00	249,556.40	792 BLK 03 LOT 04 SEC 08 PH I	T-750096	20.12	35.00	180,280.58
483 BLK 13 LOT 19 SEC 07 PH I	T-673391-A	20.12	36.50	175,363.37	653 BLK 50 LOT 10	T-21771	24.50	39.00	266,938.68	793 BLK 03 LOT 05 SEC 13 PH I	T-691852	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
484 BLK 13 LOT 20 SEC 06 PH I	T-672843-A	20.12	36.50	181,441.41	654 BLK 50 LOT 11	T-21772	24.50	39.00	266,924.20	794 BLK 03 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 07 PH I	T-690562	20.12	70.00	264,273.35
485 BLK 13 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-673393-A	20.12	36.50	199,986.51	655 BLK 50 LOT 18	T-21779	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	795 BLK 03 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 09 PH I	T-690943/945	20.12	70.00	269,857.08
486 BLK 13 LOT 22 SEC 01 PH II	T-666134	20.12	36.00	192,151.51	656 BLK 50 LOT 28	T-21788	24.50	39.00	270,701.70	796 BLK 03 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH I	T-689028	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
487 BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 01 PH II	T-666135	20.12	36.00	165,338.24	657 BLK 50 LOT 36	T-21797	24.50	39.00	249,556.40	797 BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 01 PH I	T-688238/240	20.12	70.00	297,190.32
488 BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 03 PH I	T-670640	20.12	36.50	206,615.09	658 BLK 50 LOT 56	T-21817	24.50	39.00	269,746.47	798 BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 10 PH I	T-691029/027	20.12	70.00	250,339.50
489 BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 08 PH I	T-672846-A	20.12	36.50	209,633.09	659 BLK 50 LOT 72	T-21833	24.50	39.00	245,677.59	799 BLK 03 LOT 07 SEC 05 PH II	T-749799	20.12	35.00	158,884.04
490 BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 07 PH I	T-673395	20.12	36.50	194,870.41	660 BLK 50 LOT 81	T-21842	24.50	39.00	258,767.12	800 BLK 03 LOT 10 SEC 02 PH I	T-689032	20.12	35.00	189,774.89
491 BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 09 PH I	T-673391-A	20.12	36.50	210,919.72						801 BLK 03 LOT 10 SEC 08 PH I	T-690811	20.12	35.00	154,701.68
492 BLK 13 LOT 25 SEC 01 PH II	T-666137	20.12	36.00	206,672.80						802 BLK 03 LOT 10 SEC 09 PH I	T-690947	20.12	35.00	212,993.22
493 BLK 13 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673397A	20.12	36.50	194,870.41						803 BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 04 PH I	T-689965	20.12	35.00	187,161.96
494 BLK 13 LOT 26 SEC 01 PH II	T-666138	20.12	36.00	192,151.51						804 BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 08 PH I	T-690812	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
495 BLK 13 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH II	T-666139	20.12	36.00	174,885.44						805 BLK 03 LOT 13 SEC 07 PH I	T-690567	20.12	35.00	197,408.36
496 BLK 13 LOT 27 SEC 03 PH I	T-670644	20.12	36.50	188,078.96						806 BLK 03 LOT 14 SEC 04 PH I	T-690968	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
497 BLK 13 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH II	T-666140	20.12	36.00	168,678.37						807 BLK 03 LOT 14 SEC 11 PH I	T-691344	20.12	35.00	155,512.16
498 BLK 13 LOT 31 SEC 01 PH II	T-666143	20.12	36.00	192,151.51						808 BLK 03 LOT 15 SEC 08 PH I	T-690816	20.12	35.00	179,014.75
499 BLK 13 LOT 35 SEC 07 PH I	T-673407A	20.12	36.50	192,415.32						809 BLK 03 LOT 15 SEC 10 PH I	T-691035	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
500 BLK 13 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 03 PH I	T-670645/656	20.12	77.00	336,183.01						810 BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 01A PH I	T-689967	20.12	35.00	170,420.72
501 BLK 14 LOT 02/04/06 SEC 01 PH I	T-666147/149	20.12	79.00	543,766.40						811 BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH I	T-750108	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
502 BLK 14 LOT 03 SEC 07 PH I	T-673415A	20.12	82.50	190,340.00						812 BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 11 PH I	T-691346	20.12	35.00	158,643.62
503 BLK 14 LOT 05 & 06 SEC 03 PH I	T-670663/662	20.12	82.50	351,562.88						813 BLK 03 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-690571	20.12	35.00	182,455.44
504 BLK 14 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-673419-A/421A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25						814 BLK 03 LOT 18 & 20 SEC 09 PH I	T-690957/955	20.12	71.00	274,673.03
505 BLK 14 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-673427	20.12	36.50	212,711.42						815 BLK 03 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-689967	20.12	35.00	197,408.36
506 BLK 14 LOT 17 SEC 03 PH I	T-670674	20.12	36.50	195,022.48						816 BLK 03 LOT 20 SEC 01 PH I	T-689821	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
507 BLK 14 LOT 21 SEC 03 PH I	T-670678	20.12	36.50	190,094.58						817 BLK 03 LOT 22 SEC 01A PH I	T-689973	20.12	35.00	159,409.86
508 BLK 14 LOT 21 SEC 06 PH I	T-672884-A	20.12	36.50	212,066.57						818 BLK 03 LOT 22 SEC 05 PH II	T-749814	20.12	35.00	166,507.81
509 BLK 14 LOT 21 SEC 08 PH I	T-673433-A	20.12	36.50	214,507.80						819 BLK 03 LOT 23 SEC 05 PH I	T-749815	20.12	35.00	170,907.77
510 BLK 14 LOT 22 SEC 03 PH I	T-670680	20.12	36.50	190,094.58						820 BLK 03 LOT 23 SEC 1A PH I	T-689974	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
511 BLK 14 LOT 22 SEC 07 PH I	T-673435-A	20.12	36.50	214,507.80						821 BLK 04 LOT 01 SEC 08 PH I	T-750632	20.12	35.00	200,515.15
512 BLK 14 LOT 25 SEC 03 PH I	T-670682	20.12	36.50	211,507.75						822 BLK 04 LOT 02 SEC 03 PH I	T-749830	20.12	60.00	241,925.16
513 BLK 14 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-673438A/440A	20.12	76.00	300,755.75						823 BLK 04 LOT 03 SEC 08 PH II	T-750634	20.12	35.00	179,000.94

LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
934 BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-689809	20.12	35.00	183,956.93	1105 BLK 18 LOT 19 SEC 01 PH I	T-688599	20.12	35.00	185,172.07	1241 BLDG G CLUSTER 5 UNIT P-3	N-13205	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
935 BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 05 PH II	T-749923	20.12	35.00	171,274.78	1106 BLK 18 LOT 20 SEC 02 PH I	T-689336	20.12	35.00	178,899.36	1242 BLDG G CLUSTER 1 UNIT 3-6	N-13079	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
936 BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 12 PH I	T-691736	20.12	35.00	168,206.61	1107 BLK 18 LOT 24 & 26 SEC 02 PH I	T-688342/689340	20.12	70.00	277,117.70	1243 BLDG H CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-2	N-13273	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
937 BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 13 PH I	T-691933	20.12	35.00	165,629.78	1108 BLK 18 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688608	20.12	35.00	165,851.21	1244 BLDG H CLUSTER 2 UNIT 4-4	N-13258	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
938 BLK 07 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH I	T-689910	20.12	35.00	185,172.07	1109 BLK 18 LOT 29 SEC 01 PH I	T-688609	20.12	35.00	185,172.07	1245 BLDG H CLUSTER 3 UNIT 4-3	N-13266	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
939 BLK 07 LOT 20 SEC 08 PH II	T-750713	20.12	35.00	164,029.78	1110 BLK 19 LOT 03 SEC 02 PH I	T-688345	20.12	35.00	183,282.51	1246 BLDG H CLUSTER 3 UNIT G-6	N-13271	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
940 BLK 07 LOT 21 & 23 SEC 06 PH II	T-750300/302	20.12	70.00	303,619.25	1111 BLK 19 LOT 03 SEC 02 PH I	T-688353	20.12	35.00	176,534.05	1247 BLDG H CLUSTER 5 UNIT G-2	N-13326	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
941 BLK 07 LOT 25 SEC 03 PH I	T-699815	20.12	35.00	183,956.93	1112 BLK 19 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-688624	20.12	35.00	175,906.93	1248 BLDG H CLUSTER 6 UNIT 2-5	N-13363	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
942 BLK 07 LOT 25 SEC 04 PH II	T-749669	20.12	35.00	182,506.41	1113 BLK 19 LOT 17 SEC 08 PH II	T-751046	20.12	35.00	161,113.28	1249 BLDG H CLUSTER 6 UNIT 2-6	N-13364	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
943 BLK 07 LOT 26 SEC 04 PH II	T-749670	20.12	35.00	177,893.34	1114 BLK 19 LOT 21 SEC 02 PH I	T-689364	20.12	35.00	173,190.58	1250 BLDG H CLUSTER 6 UNIT P-3	N-13379	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
944 BLK 07 LOT 27 & 29 SEC 13 PH I	T-691941/943	20.12	75.00	277,124.03	1115 BLK 19 LOT 25 SEC 02 PH I	T-689368	20.12	35.00	154,976.94	1251 BLDG I CLUSTER 2 UNIT 3-3	N-13432	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
945 BLK 08 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH I	T-689110	20.12	35.00	170,420.72	1116 BLK 20 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-689558	20.12	35.00	175,906.93	1252 BLDG I CLUSTER 2 UNIT 3-4	N-13433	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
946 BLK 08 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 04 PH I	T-690960/098	20.12	75.00	320,915.15	1117 BLK 20 LOT 23 SEC 02 PH I	T-689397	20.12	35.00	168,132.29	1253 BLDG I CLUSTER 3 UNIT G-2	N-13449	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
947 BLK 08 LOT 08 SEC 02 PH I	T-689112	20.12	35.00	170,420.72	1118 BLK 20 LOT 25 SEC 02 PH I	T-689399	20.12	35.00	183,282.51	1254 BLDG J CLUSTER 1 UNIT 2-4	N-13485	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
948 BLK 08 LOT 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689113	20.12	35.00	165,851.21	1119 BLK 20 LOT 27 SEC 02 PH I	T-689401	20.12	35.00	163,295.77	1255 BLDG J CLUSTER 2 UNIT 2-2	N-13512	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
949 BLK 08 LOT 09 SEC 05 PH II	T-749941	20.12	35.00	169,897.52	1120 BLK 21 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH I	T-689609	20.12	35.00	165,851.21	1256 BLDG J CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-3	N-13531	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
950 BLK 08 LOT 10 & 12 SEC 04 PH I	T-690101/099	20.12	70.00	263,243.34	1121 BLK 21 LOT 12 SEC 02 PH I	T-689419	20.12	35.00	183,593.84	1257 BLDG J CLUSTER 3 UNIT 2-4	N-13543	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
951 BLK 08 LOT 10 SEC 12 PH I	T-691751	20.12	35.00	177,893.34	1122 BLK 21 LOT 15 SEC 02 PH I	T-689422	20.12	35.00	190,279.82	1258 BLDG K CLUSTER 1 UNIT 3-3	N-13577	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
952 BLK 08 LOT 10 SEC 04 PH I	T-690100	20.12	35.00	170,964.75	1123 BLK 21 LOT 17 SEC 02 PH I	T-689424	20.12	35.00	184,834.19	1259 BLDG K CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-6	N-13592	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
953 BLK 08 LOT 11 SEC 10 PH I	T-691154	20.12	35.00	157,880.23	1124 BLK 21 LOT 18 SEC 02 PH I	T-689425	20.12	35.00	168,292.85	1260 BLDG K CLUSTER 2 UNIT 2-4	N-13601	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
954 BLK 08 LOT 12 SEC 02 PH I	T-689116	20.12	35.00	177,893.34	1125 BLK 21 LOT 20 SEC 02 PH I	T-689427	20.12	35.00	154,701.68	1261 BLDG K CLUSTER 2 UNIT 2-5	N-13602	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
955 BLK 08 LOT 12 SEC 10 PH I	T-691155	20.12	35.00	206,908.12	1126 BLK 21 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH I	T-688700	20.12	35.00	175,906.93	1262 BLDG K CLUSTER 3 UNIT 2-3	N-13629	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
956 BLK 08 LOT 13 SEC 01 PH II	T-746074	20.12	35.00	200,515.15	1127 BLK 21 LOT 22 SEC 02 PH I	T-689429	20.12	35.00	183,282.51	1263 BLDG K CLUSTER 3 UNIT 3-1	N-13633	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
957 BLK 08 LOT 14 SEC 10 PH I	T-691157	20.12	35.00	206,885.53	1128 BLK 21 LOT 23 SEC 01 PH I	T-688702	20.12	35.00	185,172.07	1264 BLDG K CLUSTER 3 UNIT 3-6	N-13638	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
958 BLK 08 LOT 14 SEC 12 PH I	T-691755	20.12	35.00	190,279.82	1129 BLK 21 LOT 24 & 26 SEC 01 PH I	T-688705	20.12	35.00	351,813.86	1265 BLDG K CLUSTER 4 UNIT 4-4	N-13671	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
959 BLK 08 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-690654	20.12	35.00	185,807.26	1130 BLK 21 LOT 27 SEC 02 PH I	T-689434	20.12	35.00	159,879.22	1266 BLDG M CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-1	N-13790	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
960 BLK 08 LOT 16 SEC 03 PH I	T-689836	20.12	35.00	165,851.21	1131 BLK 22 LOT 03 SEC 08 PH II	T-751122	20.12	35.00	181,733.32	1267 BLDG M CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-2	N-13820	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
961 BLK 08 LOT 16 SEC 07 PH I	T-690655	20.12	35.00	166,654.86	1132 BLK 22 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 01 PH I	T-688720/718	20.12	70.00	268,600.50	1268 BLDG N CLUSTER 1 UNIT 2-6	N-13835	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
962 BLK 08 LOT 16 SEC 03 PH I	T-689838	20.12	35.00	184,334.36	1133 BLK 22 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689448/447	20.12	75.00	305,108.22	1269 BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT 3-4	N-13810	30.00	0.00	328,503.00
963 BLK 08 LOT 18 SEC 07 PH I	T-690657	20.12	35.00	164,521.76	1134 BLK 22 LOT 11 SEC 02 PH I	T-689451	20.12	35.00	156,620.83	1270 BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT 5-3	N-13879	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
964 BLK 08 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH I	T-68940	20.12	35.00	190,410.08	1135 BLK 22 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH I	T-688730	20.12	35.00	171,319.36	1271 BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-1	N-13877	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
965 BLK 08 LOT 20 SEC 13 PH I	T-691963	20.12	35.00	190,305.31	1136 BLK 22 LOT 19 SEC 02 PH I	T-689459	20.12	35.00	190,305.31	1272 BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-5	N-13881	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
966 BLK 08 LOT 21 SEC 05 PH I	T-690399	20.12	35.00	169,256.38	1137 BLK 22 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH I	T-688733	20.12	35.00	183,593.84	1273 BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-6	N-13882	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
967 BLK 08 LOT 21 SEC 05 PH II	T-749954	20.12	35.00	163,101.10	1138 BLK 22 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH II	T-748417	20.12	35.00	160,348.68	1274 BLDG N CLUSTER 3 UNIT P-6	N-13914	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
968 BLK 08 LOT 22 SEC 12 PH I	T-691763	20.12	35.00	177,893.34	1139 BLK 22 LOT 28 SEC 02 PH I	T-689468	20.12	35.00	156,983.43	1275 BLDG O CLUSTER 1 UNIT 2-1	N-13920	30.00	0.00	383,266.20
969 BLK 08 LOT 23 SEC 07 PH I	T-690662	20.12	35.00	185,172.07	1140 BLK 22 LOT 30 SEC 02 PH I	T-689470	20.12	35.00	183,282.51	1276 BLDG O CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-3	N-13940	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
970 BLK 08 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-690664	20.12	35.00	187,464.27	1141 BLK 23 LOT 01 SEC 08 PH II	T-751148	20.12	35.00	180,469.64	1277 BLDG O CLUSTER 2 UNIT 4-6	N-13966	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
971 BLK 08 LOT 26 SEC 05 PH II	T-749958	20.12	35.00	188,784.61	1142 BLK 23 LOT 03 SEC 01 PH I	T-688748	20.12	35.00	175,906.93	1278 BLDG O CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-4	N-13970	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
972 BLK 08 LOT 29 SEC 04 PH II	T-749702	20.12	35.00	179,600.94	1143 BLK 23 LOT 03 SEC 08 PH II	T-751150	20.12	35.00	190,305.31	1279 BLDG O CLUSTER 3 UNIT 5-3	N-14001	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
973 BLK 09 LOT 03 SEC 03 PH I	T-689853	20.12	35.00	184,334.36	1144 BLK 23 LOT 07 SEC 11 PH I	T-691612	20.12	35.00	181,130.14	1280 BLDG O CLUSTER 3 UNIT G-6	N-13977	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
974 BLK 09 LOT 03 SEC 05 PH I	T-690410	20.12	35.00	184,334.36	1145 BLK 23 LOT 08 SEC 11 PH I	T-691613	20.12	35.00	177,893.34	1281 BLDG O CLUSTER 3 UNIT P-2	N-14000	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
975 BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689126/128	20.12	85.00	343,208.12	1146 BLK 23 LOT 11 SEC 02 PH I	T-689486	20.12	35.00	176,882.37	1282 BLDG O CLUSTER 3 UNIT P-4	N-14002	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
976 BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 04 PH I	T-690127/25	20.12	75.00	266,455.31	1147 BLK 23 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH I	T-688759	20.12	35.00	160,735.47	1283 BLDG O CLUSTER 4 UNIT 4-4	N-14025	30.00	0.00	310,263.00
977 BLK 09 LOT 07 SEC 10 PH I	T-691173	20.12	35.00	176,024.32	1148 BLK 23 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH I	T-688760	20.12	35.00	166,654.86	1284 BLDG P CLUSTER 2 UNIT G-4	N-14065	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
978 BLK 09 LOT 08 SEC 10 PH I	T-691174	20.12	35.00	161,130.89	1149 BLK 23 LOT 16 SEC 02 PH I	T-689491	20.12	35.00	168,144.23					
979 BLK 09 LOT 09 SEC 04 PH II	T-749712	20.12	35.00	185,326.93	1150 BLK 23 LOT 20 SEC 02 PH I	T-689495	20.12	35.00	177,893.34					
980 BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 02 PH I	T-689129	20.12	35.00	160,735.47	1151 BLK 23 LOT 23 SEC 02 PH I	T-689498	20.12	35.00	179,354.57					
981 BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 03 PH I	T-689860	20.12	35.00	162,798.45	1152 BLK 23 LOT 25 SEC 02 PH I	T-689500	20.12	35.00	170,701.34					
982 BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 02 PH I	T-689130	20.12	35.00	185,172.07	1153 BLK 23 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH I	T-688772	20.12	35.00	185,172.07					
983 BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 05 PH I	T-690418	20.12	35.00	183,956.93	1154 BLK 23 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688773	20.12	35.00	175,906.93					
984 BLK 09 LOT 12 SEC 04 PH I	T-690130	20.12	35.00	190,305.31	1155 BLK 23 LOT 29 SEC 01 PH I	T-688774	20.12	35.00	175,906.93					
985 BLK 09 LOT 15 SEC 05 PH I	T-690422	20.12	35.00	185,172.07	1156 BLK 23 LOT 29 SEC 02 PH I	T-689504	20.12	35.00	176,882.37					
986 BLK 09 LOT 17 SEC 05 PH I	T-690424	20.12	35.00	189,774.89	1157 BLK 24 LOT 04 SEC 08 PH II	T-751179	20.12	35.00	190,305.31					
987 BLK 09 LOT 18 SEC 05 PH II	T-749978	20.12	35.00	154,701.68	1158 BLK 24 LOT 08 SEC 01 PH I	T-688787	20.12	35.00	185,172.07					
988 BLK 09 LOT 18 SEC 07 PH I	T-690684	20.12	35.00	187,464.27	1159 BLK 24 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-688789	20.12	35.00	185,172.07					
989 BLK 09 LOT 19 SEC 02 PH I	T-689138	20.12	35.00	197,288.28	1160 BLK 24 LOT 14 SEC 02 PH I	T-689524	20.12	35.00	182,255.31					
990 BLK 09 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-689696	20.12	35.00	187,464.27	1161 BLK 24 LOT 17 SEC 02 PH I	T-689527	20.12	35.00	189,897.52					
991 BLK 09 LOT 20 SEC 07 PH I	T-690686	20.12	35.00	170,979.47	1162 BLK 24 LOT 18 SEC 02 PH I	T-689528	20.12	35.00	151,329.81					
992 BLK 09 LOT 21 SEC 05 PH I	T-690428	20.12	35.00	185,807.26	1163 BLK 24 LOT 25 SEC 02 PH I	T-689535	20.12	35.00	179,014.75					
993 BLK 09 LOT 23 SEC 03 PH I	T-689873	20.12	35.00	183,956.93	1164 BLK 24 LOT 29 SEC 02 PH I	T-689539	20.12	35.00	191,014.75					
994 BLK 09 LOT 23 SEC 05 PH I	T-690414	20.12	35.00	190,305.31	1165 BLK 25 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH I	T-688798	20.12	35.00	165,					

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DECEMBER 4, 2004

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OBITUARIES

EUGENIA BANZON JOSE

Passed away on December 2, 2004
at the age of 94.

Her husband Luis (+); sisters Codrata (+) and Edilberto Soriano (+), Anastacia (+) and Graciano Pastorfide (+), Joaquina (+), Damiana (+); brothers Salvador (+), Angel (+) and Joaquin (+); nieces and nephews Aurora Pastorfide (+), Fe Pastorfide, Aleli & Ading Flores, Lita & Jaime Banzon (+), Gil (+) and Consuelo Pastorfide, Anabella Pastorfide (+), Greg & Gina Pastorfide, Penny (+) & Andres Atienza (+), Carol & Boy Tandog, Lyn & Virgilio Almario; grandchildren, relatives and friends pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan.

The funeral party will leave on Sunday, December 5, at 9 a.m. for the funeral mass and burial services at Eternal Gardens in Balanga, Bataan.

"Yahweh is my shepherd, I lack nothing, In grassy meadows He lets me lie, By tranquil streams He leads me to restore my spirit... Kindness and faithful, love pursue me every day of my life. I make my home in the house of Yahweh for all time to come." (Psalm 23:1-3,6)

GABINO VALERA BALBIN, M.D., C.P.H., M.P.H.

Former Governor of the Province of Abra,
Regional Health Director,
UP College of Medicine, Class '34

Beloved Husband, Father, and Grandfather
peacefully returned to his Creator
on December 2, 2004 at the age of 94.

His loving wife LOURDES BARROS BALBIN; children LILLIAN and SUPHON, MILDRED and GLICERIO JR., GABINO JR. and LEANIDA, LUZ and JIM SR.; grandchildren MARIA LOURDES, GABINO JOSEF, CHARLES, MILETTE, JON, MARIA NIÑA, KATHLEEN MARIA, MARIA JOANNA, JIM JR., and THERESA, and other relatives and friends, request prayers for the joyful homecoming of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Balbin family residence, Bangued, Abra. Interment will be on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Cemetery, Bangued, Abra, after the 6:40 a.m. Mass at the St. James the Elder Cathedral.

Our Dearly Beloved VICENTE E. YABYABIN

Peacefully joined our Lord
on December 2, 2004 at the age of 83.

His loving wife Constancia de Torres; children, in-laws and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at No. 1 Brgy. Palindan, Ibaan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Wednesday, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8th of December 2004 at St. Mary Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Ibaan Parish Church.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" Psalm 23:11

DR. TERESITA J. PARAZO WILSON

of Gerona, Tarlac & Antioch, California, USA

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord in California USA
on Nov. 15, 2004 at the age of 71.



Her cremated remains now lie in state at St. Catherine Church in Gerona, Tarlac.

Interment will be on December 6, 2004 at the Gerona Catholic Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

Her bereaved sisters, brother, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Atty. Francisco C. Cuevas

was called home to the Lord
on November 30, 2004 at the age of 76.

He shall be missed by his loving children Rosemarie and Rey and Anemarie; grandchildren Aivanne, Apoleen, Adalbert, Michael and Joseph; brothers, sister and in-laws.

His body lies at Chapel Q, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, December 5, 2004 at 8:00 a.m., Loyola Memorial Chapel Crematorium.

"Lord my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my rock of refuge, my shield my loving horn, my stronghold..." Psalm 18:3

VENERANDO "BENNY" BERNARDO JOSON

of Ilog Baliwag, Quezon NE and Mabini St., Cabanatuan City
(August 25, 1954 - November 29, 2004)

His loving wife: Noneth Hipolito Joson; Children: Kathryn Menelea - Manuel G. Chua, Jr., Karine Camille, Kalvin Vennet, Kleana Isabelle
Grandchild: Klarine Angela; Mother: Brigida Bernardo Joson

Brothers, sisters, and brothers and sisters-in-law request the pious readers to join them in expressing thanks to the Lord for his life - a loving and faithful husband, father, brother, and son.

His cremated remains will be interred after a Holy Mass is celebrated in his memory at St. Nicholas de Tolentine Crypt, Lakewood City, Cabanatuan City at 2:00 p.m., today.



You are lovingly remembered on your first death anniversary

Mia EMILIA MARTIN COCAL

5 October 1925 - 4 December 2003

Masses Offered:
Sto. Niño De Paz Greenbelt Chapel
(November 27 - December 5)
Mt. Carmel Church in New Manila
(December 4, 7 A.M.)

CLASSIFIEDS



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting Offers to Purchase on an "As Is - Where Is" basis, the following properties:

I. SECOND OFFERING

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
001-019	19 commercial lots, with areas ranging from 87 to 528 sq.m. With title	Phase XI, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	Php 3,200.00 to Php 3,520.00/sq.m.
020	1 commercial lot 470 sq.m. With title	Phase X, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	Php 2,000.00/sq.m.
021-028	6 commercial lots 1,000 to 1,145 sq.m. With titles	Pleasant Hills Subd., San Jose Del Monte Bulecan	Php 10,000.00/sq.m.
027-283	257 commercial lots with areas ranging from 170 to 287 sq.m. With titles	Pandacan, Pampanga	Php 1,500.00 to Php 1,800.00/sq.m.
284-285	2 commercial lots 1,000 sq.m. each With titles	Bulihan, Silang Cavite	Php 7,000.00/sq.m.

Terms of payment for the above-cited properties are: Minimum of Ten Percent (10%) deposit; Options for repayment period are Cash, Modified Cash (Six (6) equal installments without interest) or installment for a maximum period of Ten (10) years with graduated interest rates.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00 from the Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED), Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Bidding Materials for Pandacan properties can also be secured from the NHA-NCL Regional Office, Brgy. Malampis, San Fernando, Pampanga. Contact Person: Engr. Rommel Alimboyao Tel. No. 045-9611248.

For further inquiry, please contact Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002 (02) 928-4561 local 263 & 264.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC BIDDING

	BAGONG SILANG/PLEASANT HILLS/ PANDACAN/BULIHAN
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	Dec. 6 to 10, '04 Office Hours, NHA Main Office, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City
B. Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 8, 2004, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Office
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	Dec. 13, '04, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Operations Center
D. Opening of Sealed Bids	Dec. 13, '04, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center

The AUTHORITY reserves the right to reject any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI - December 4, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines PROVINCE OF CEBU BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

DepEd Bldg., PGSO, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
Telephone Nos: 253-9514; 254-1649; 416-6005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Catering Services for the SUBSISTENCE of 1,400 Jail Prisoners/Inmates
Location	New Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDR), Kalunasan, Cebu City
Brief Description	Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
Approved Budget for the Contract	P7,602,000.00 or P30.00/person/day
Contract Duration	Six (6) months (January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005) 181 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of bids shall also be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Awards of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 4-13, 2004
2. Pre-bid conference	December 14, 2004 (Tuesday 10:00 A.M.)
3. Opening of bids	December 27, 2004 (Monday, 10:00 A.M.)
4. Bid Evaluation	December 27, 2004
5. Post-qualification	December 27, 2004
6. Notice of Award	December 27, 2004

Bid Documents will be available only to the prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P500.00) to the Cash Receipts Division, Office of the Provincial Treasurer.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Dec. 4 & 11, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines Department of the Interior and Local Government NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ENGINEERING SERVICE Camp Crame, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The PNP Engineering Service is inviting Interested PNP accredited contractors to participate in the bidding for the Proposed Construction of Medium Rise PNCO Condominium Building (Phase 1) inside Camp Crame, Quezon City.

The approved budget for the contract is P13,862,619.52 funded through PNP Trust Receipts Program for Expenditure CY 2004.

Interested parties may personally obtain the plans, specification and bid proposal form at the PNP Engineering Service, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Deadline of submission of pre-C/Letter of Intent	- Dec. 22, 2004
Issuance of Bid Documents	- Jan. 3, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	- Jan. 5, 2005
Receipt and Opening of Bids	- Jan. 18, 2005

Pre-C document/Letter of Intent will not be accepted after the stipulated deadline and only pre-qualified bidders who were issued with written notice(s) to this effect will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

The Provision of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations, shall govern all particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract.

Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defective or informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the PNP.

(Sgd.) RONALDO O. VILLASEÑOR
Police Senior Superintendent (DSC)
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Dec. 4, 2004)

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Wack2 Royal Mansion 5/F
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QUEZON CITY
 Thse 3BR P2.5M 09170997547

ALPHA VICTORIA NEW MLA
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SAN JUAN
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 Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-9502
 MAIDS w/ NBI Ref 4392490
 NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777
 BEST MAIDS 8250754
 SAVIOUR MAIDS 4376246

CONDO/TWNHSE
 LAS PINAS
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MAKATI
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Wack2 Royal Mansion 5/F
 Studio w/PS 1.7M 837601-43

PASIG
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CRISANTA TOWER 6341212

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 Type Condos & Twintiles Ready to Move-In 2M Up 9M Call 0920-3046951

RESORT TYPE CONDO RFO
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RUSH PACIFIC PLACE front
 CRC 3BR newly fixed with parking P5.2M 837601-03

QUEZON CITY
 Thse 3BR P2.5M 09170997547

ALPHA VICTORIA NEW MLA
 LA116 FA236 8M 6341212

•QC NR SM CITY P1.1M
 2BR P335T D/P 9126833

SAN JUAN
 GHILLS 1BR 09181371397

MANDALUYONG
 CITYLAND SHAW 1BR FRONT SHANG P2.1M 09175213839

Wack2 Royal Mansion 5/F
 Studio w/PS 1.7M 837601-43

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STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY FAMILY COURT BRANCH

In re the marriage of:

JAMES M. SCHAEFER,
5618 West Lincoln Avenue
West Allis, WI 53219

Petitioner,

-and-

MILAGROS A. SCHAEFER,
Respondent.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To the person named above as Respondent:

You are hereby notified that the Petitioner
named above has filed a petition for divorce against you.

Within 45 days after the first date of publication,
you must respond with a written demand for a copy
of the petition.

The demand must be sent or delivered to this
court whose address is:

Clerk of Circuit Court:
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI

and to John P. Savage, the Petitioner's attorney,
whose address is:

6290 North Port Washington Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217

You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the petition
within 45 days, the court may grant judgment
against you for the award of money or other legal
action requested in the petition, and you may lose
your right to object to anything that is or may be
incorporated in the petition. A judgment may be
enforced as provided by and may also be enforced
by garnishment or wages or seizure of property.

Dated: September 8, 2004.

Attorney for Petitioner

(Sgd.) John P. Savage

6290 North Port Washington Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217

Phone: (414) 964-5670

Fax: (414) 964-7217

State Bar # 1012298

(PDI - Nov. 27, Dec. 4 & 11, 2004)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

6th Fl. SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 725-8508, 726-2264 Fax: 727-2990
Website: <http://www.sec.gov.ph>

IN THE MATTER OF : APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE
OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS
A FINANCING COMPANY

NKB FINANCE CORPORATION : FORMERLY: NKB Lending Corporation

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an
application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in
accordance with Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to
implement the Provisions of R.A. No. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of
1998). Its principal office shall be located at Bacolod City.

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

Authorized Capital Stock P12,000,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock 10,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital Stock 9,873,600.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons
are the directors/officers of the corporation

Name Position
Jesus C. Kho Director/President
Norman Earl O. Kho Director/Vice-President
Editha Q. Kho Director/Secretary
Karina May K. Young Director
Brendan O. Kho Director

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general
circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and
shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/
Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in
the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally
or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice
if the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. No. 8556, the
implementing Rules and Regulations and other pertinent laws have been
complied with and no valid reasons exist for the disapproval of the subject
application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.
October 26, 2004.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI - Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 2004)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation

2228 Don Chino Rocas Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 841-4000-30; Fax No. 841-4909; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph;

SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites interested bidders to
purchase on cash basis only by way of SEALED BIDS the following property:

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
Seven (7) contiguous parcels of lot, with improvements thereon and a total net usable area of 2,011.24 sq. mtrs.	Taft Avenue Extension, Barangay 59, Sta. Clara District, Pasay City, adjacent to Iglesia Filipina Independiente and the LRT Libertad Station. The Property was the former site of Banco Primero Development Bank.	PHP 66 MM

Complete description/specifications of the property, Conditions of Bid, bid forms and other related documents, shall be made available for a fee of P 500.00 to interested bidders from December 6 to 15, 2004 at the Office of the Secretariat, Special Disposition Committee, at the Ground Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Don Chino Rocas Avenue, Makati City. For further details, please contact Engr. Ernesto R. Torres, Jr. at telephone number 841-4000 local 4902.

Sealed bids shall be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Secretariat Extension Office, 8th floor, PDIC Ayala Extension Office, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City not later than 2:00 P.M. on December 16, 2004. The bids shall be labelled "Special Disposition Committee, PDIC Makati City".

Bidder's deposit equivalent to 10% of the bid price in Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to PDIC must be enclosed with the sealed bid.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to accept any bid, or to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated, is the most beneficial to PDIC.

PDIC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of the bid nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(PDI - Dec. 3, 4 & 5, 2004)



Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on December 9, 2004, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City for the following properties:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
BULACAN AM-PY-286	Along Cagayan Valley Road, Brgy. Tambubong, San Rafael	6 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. T-167376 to T-167381 total area of 45,997 m²	P 44,200,000.00
OSAMIZ AM-CP-287	Along National Highway, Brgy. Maringcol, Ozamiz City	5 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. T-26086-T-26088, T-26090 & T-26092) total area of 22,262 m² w/ ricemill bldg. & imp.	P 84,113,850.00
TARLAC AM-ED-288a	Along McArthur Highway, Brgy. Estrada, Capas	2 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. 361740 & 361741) total area of 25,155 m² w/ bldg. & imp	P 18,405,000.00
AM-ED-288b	-do	Various machinery & eqpt. for brick-making (sale on "as-is where-is" basis)	P 3,000.00 to 56,800.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Makati City; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252.

(PDI - Dec. 4 & 5, 2004)

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BUSINESS

MAIN PARTNER IN EUROPE

Prince Andrew calls for closer RP-UK ties

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UNITED Kingdom's Prince Andrew yesterday urged the government to take further steps to promote a positive climate for foreign direct investments and regard his country as its main partner in Europe.

In a talk during the general membership meeting of the Makati Business Club, Prince Andrew said: "We hope that you will send the signals that (in your country) there is growing freedom for businesses to operate."

"(Such freedom) is vital to the reduction of business risks and to ensuring success," said Queen Elizabeth II's second son.

The Duke of York is in the country for a three-day visit in his capacity as the UK's special representative for international trade and investment.

As special representative, Prince Andrew is tasked to visit economies where British companies operate and help develop businesses for them.

This is his third visit to the country, the last one was when he visited in 2001 the Malampaya natural gas facilities—an investment led by the Anglo-Dutch group Shell.

Prince Andrew also called on the government "to be more aware of the European trade bloc, the single biggest market in the world."

"The United Kingdom is the

gateway to the European Union," Prince Andrew said. "We hope that you would view us not 'a' but 'the' strategic partner in Europe."

He said the UK was the fourth-largest economy in the world and it has registered strong growth rates in the past decade, "stronger than any other European country."

Two-way trade between the UK and the Philippines amounts to about one billion euros or \$1.2 billion.

"We are importing from your country two or three times more than we are exporting to you, but I'm not complaining," the duke said. "We encourage [the British]

to enjoy products made here."

He said tennis balls used in Wimbledon as well as Olympic-standard sails for sailboats used by British sportsmen were coming from the Philippines.

Other Philippine exports to the UK include electronic components, sea vessels for search and rescue and healthcare workers such as nurses and caregivers.

In August, officials of the European Commission said there might be greater opportunities for Philippine exports to and investments from the European Union after it expanded into 25 members.

Last May 1, the EU took in 10 new members including Cyprus, the

Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

The last time the EU expanded was in 1995 when Austria, Sweden and Finland joined. Before that, the EU grouped France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

EC consultant Joern Dosch said there was a strong potential for European direct investments in the country although potential investors must be informed better about the Philippines.

Geoffrey Short, chair of the British Chamber of Commerce of

the Philippines, also said that his compatriots viewed as contributing to a better business climate the Supreme Court's recent ruling that allowed foreign investors to engage in mining activities and also the recent Cabinet appointments made by Malacañang.

"We would also want to see improvements in the country's infrastructure system—roads, railroads, etc.—although we are seeing the beginning of projects related to these," Short said.

He added that British businessmen also wanted to see the Philippines finally taken out of the Financial Action Task Force's list of dirty-money havens.

US official urges approval of tax bills

By Michelle V. Remo

A TOP official of the United States government has warned that the foreign investors' outlook on the Philippines would remain pessimistic unless the administration's fiscal reform measures are implemented.

US Treasury Assistant Secretary Randal Quarles, who was in the country to meet with local economic officials and legislators, said that the executive and legislative sectors must make coordinated moves to rein in the fiscal deficit, which was closely watched by foreign investors.

"I encourage the government and the Congress to work together to ensure that key revenue measures, sufficient to reach or exceed the original goals set out by the President, are taken as quickly as possible," he told reporters.

The Arroyo administration is pushing for the approval of eight revenue-

raising measures to help the government wipe out its budget deficit.

These include the increase in sin taxes, franchise tax on telecommunication companies, lateral attrition for revenue-collection agencies, rationalization of fiscal incentives, increase in value-added tax, simplified net income tax, tax amnesty and increase in petroleum taxes.

The measures are expected to generate P80 billion in annual revenue, and reduce the budget deficit, which is expected to reach P197.8 billion this year.

"It's clear that the outlook for economic growth in the Philippines will be less attractive if the necessary proposals to solve the fiscal deficit are not passed quickly," Quarles said in a press briefing yesterday.

The official said the budget woes of the national government and state-owned firms, which resulted in a huge public sector debt, left little

money for programs to reduce poverty and fuel rapid growth.

He also said problems confronting the Philippines' power sector are also to blame for weak inflow of foreign investments.

He thus recommended an urgent measure to keep the National Power Corp. from sinking further into debt, such as increasing tariff rates.

Quarles, however, said the level of commitment of the country's economic officials to solve the fiscal problem was "encouraging."

"I am more encouraged by the progress (of the government's efforts to address the fiscal problem), which is better than what I expected before I arrived," he said.

Philippine officials clearly recognized the importance of quickly implementing the fiscal reform measures and was giving the focus that the fiscal problem deserves, he said.

Court bars sale of MRT stations

By Clarissa S. Batino

A MAKATI court has barred the Makati government from selling off four stations of the Metro Rail Transit 3, which runs from North Avenue in Quezon City to Taft Avenue in Manila.

MRT 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso said in an interview that he was told of the court decision by the Office of the Solicitor General, but has not received the formal order.

"We hope this would stop the Makati City from trying to collect taxes from a government agency like us," said Lastimoso.

He said the injunction would stop Makati City from "annotating the titles" to the stations, which would indicate ownership over the stations.

He said the MRT 3 was prepared to elevate the issue to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court to finally resolve the issue of whether local governments could collect

real estate taxes from the MRT 3.

A similar injunction was earlier issued by the Quezon City court against the local government.

The Makati City earlier ordered the auction of MRT stations Guadalupe, Buendia, Ayala and Magallanes after MRT 3 allegedly failed to pay more than P1 billion in real estate taxes.

The MRT 3 said in documents filed before the local courts that government agencies, like the MRT 3, were exempt from paying real estate taxes.

Lastimoso said MRT 3's tax obligations accrued to the national government, even if the infrastructure was owned by private consortium Metro Rail Transit Corp., led by the Fil-Estate Group.

The cities of Makati and Quezon, on the other hand, claimed that all entities doing business within the city must pay real estate taxes as provided by the Local Government Code.

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PROPERTY

Exclusive haven rises in Sta. Rosa

By Charles E. Buban

THE HISTORIC Spanish city of Caceres is known for its fortress-like houses and towers, which were once inhabited by nobility.

The Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles personalized in the building and its monumental surroundings are some of the reasons it was designated a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

"This beautiful city of Caceres was our inspiration when we conceived our newest first-class residential subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna," revealed Michael Uy, vice chair of Moldex Group of Companies, the developer of Villa Caceres Sta. Rosa.

Aura of exclusivity

Just like its namesake, Villa Caceres takes on Spanish Mediterranean theme as well as its aura of exclusivity.

"Common styles that we have adopted for the Villa Caceres included tiled roofs and use of warm, earthy tones—from white to ochre and pale pink to gray. The houses will also have arched doorways, main windows and porch entries," revealed Uy.

A joint venture with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS), Villa Caceres was launched in 2000 with Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. as the exclusive marketer.

Prime location

"The 53-hectare property is owned by AFP-RSBS and when we saw its prime location (bounded RSBS Boulevard, Baliba-



DEVELOPMENT is in full swing at this latest exclusive subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna

go Road and National Highway), we immediately realized its potential not only as an exclusive residential haven but a commercial destination as well," said Alzon Gotiangco, South sales operation manager of Moldex Realty Marketing.

Gotiangco revealed that Villa Caceres is actually a two-pronged project: one part as a self-contained first-class residential subdivision, and the other, as a modern fully integrated commercial and recreational complex.

Perhaps, Jollibee saw this potential when it bought three hectares of property within Villa Caceres' commercial area.

Complement

"The commercial area is close to nine hectares where we will locate specialty shops, banks and others. The area's loca-

tion will definitely complement nearby establishments including Waltermart and Enchanted Kingdom," said Gotiangco.

Villa Caceres has a total of 1,318 lots (Phase 1 and 2) wherein only 572 lots now remains for sale.

Said Gotiangco: "Initially, we only sell lots (costing a minimum of P660,000). When Moldex's Metrogate Housing Series were launched a few months ago, we could now offer house and lot packages (total of six types) ranging from P1.9 million to P2.7 million."

Notable feature

One of the notable features of Villa Caceres in the 1.2-hectare Clubhouse Complex is designed by former United Architects of the Philippines president

Nestor Mangio.

"The complex will feature a gazebo, view deck, multipurpose area, game rooms, bar, a tennis court and badminton courts, swimming pool, among others," enumerated Melanie Hua Shrestha, Moldex Realty Team Citrine AVE.

She related that the complex is envisioned to provide all the resident's requirements with most of them concentrated on the clubhouse's 684-square-meter floor area.

Said Shrestha: "The development of Villa Caceres is now in full swing. The addition of this development to the rows of exclusive subdivisions in the area will surely fill the huge demand for high-end residential investments among the middle- to high-income groups along the Bifan-Sta. Rosa-Cabuyao corridor."



VILLA Caceres clubhouse is expected to be a self-contained complex for its residents.

Golf course playable next month

EXCITEMENT rippled throughout the serenely beautiful environment of Ayala Greenfield Estates when legendary golf course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr. flew in recently to inspect and play at his primed masterpiece—the 18-hole, all-weather, par 72 championship golf course. Graciously leading the ceremonial tee off, Bobby Jones took the shot that officially marked the first nine holes in this course as playable in January 2005.

Says Bobby Jones with pride: "Playing at Ayala Greenfield Estates' golf course will make any player want to beat that hole. Here, every hole is beautiful because it is not only challenging but also lets you enjoy harmony with nature."

Completed by July

With the first nine holes now poised for the power drives and tricky putts, homeowners, lot owners, guests and keen buyers raring to experience a great golf game need not wait in vain. The 18-hole golf course at Ayala Greenfield Estates along with other amenities will be completed by July of next year.

According to Ayala Land Inc. VP Bobby Dy, this new golfing development is likely to boost up sales of lots at Ayala Greenfield Estates.

"We did pretty well this year. With the completion of the golf course, we expect sales to increase further," says Dy.

He adds that facilities for family-oriented activities like the clubhouse, badminton courts and bowling alley will also be made available, "and the high turnout of people to see Bobby Jones showed much anticipation over the opening of the golf course. With the first nine holes now in place, we are certain that serious and weekend golfers along with their families will enjoy living at Ayala Greenfield Estates."

The successful event also saw Bobby Jones signing special copies of his best seller, "Golf By Design" for those who made reservations that day.

Ayala Greenfield Estates combines a scenic golfing and leisure environment with the quality comforts and conveniences of a modern, exclusive residential community. What's more, each lot entitles owners a golf and leisure club share, for a minimal activation fee.

For inquiries about Ayala Greenfield Estates, call 848-5000, log on to www.ayala-land.com.ph or e-mail ayala-sales@ayala-land.com.ph.

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PROPERTY

Bamboo in architecture

By Marcos R. de Guzman Jr.

THE MOST common plant variety in our country is grass. That's because it thrives in our weather and also grows in most varieties of soil.

Not known to many is that the bamboo belongs to the grass family and is therefore endemic to our shores.

Bamboo's diverse uses

Our ancestors and even the simple folk to this day have relied on bamboo as tools for farming and hunting. It has been used as lattices for vegetables, spears, fishing poles, traps, animal shelters and even for irrigation pipes. Even in the kitchen it has proved valuable: as

COMMENTARY

firewood, food steamer, carved as spoon and fork, and, of course, as "tuhog" for any barbecue. Young bamboo shoots or "labong" are also a local delicacy cooked in a number of different ways depending on where in the country you are.

In the field of music, bamboo has made a name, as in the world-renowned bamboo organ, or for xylophones, flutes and chimes.

Bamboo has been used in limitless ways. In building our indigenous homes, it is used for posts, floor strips, roof framing, ceiling, walls and fences. Why in some cases it is even used as roofing. The fact is, one can make a house entirely from bamboo, with furnishings to boot!

Some people mistakenly think that this modest material called bamboo has uses limited to indigenous houses and small-scale industries. Its uses are as diverse as man's creativity!

Bamboo has found its mark not just locally but globally, as well. Our furniture makers have used this material extensively and have made headway with it in the international market. Now there are bamboo farms that grow the poles to the specifications of the furniture maker, with various options as to species, quality, color, size and shape. Even the curve patterns are predetermined. The normally round bamboo sections can now be engineered to create oval or square sections. There are so many varieties of bamboo found all over the Philippines, while there are even more around Asia.

Builders' choice

In Hong Kong and China, bamboo is the material chosen by most builders for scaffolding and form works in creating their modern skyscrapers. Visiting the growing cities of China, you will observe bamboo frames and nets wrapped around these tall, massive structures under construction.

Large contractors prefer bamboo due to its lightness and strength, not to mention cost efficiency and sustainability.

As a landscape element, bamboo is finding a place in new homes within the cities. Whether as living garden plants or dried and treated ornamentals, it readily lends its charm and beauty and produces soothing sounds that remind urban dwellers of the peaceful life in the countryside. It provides an oasis of sorts and softens the concrete jungle. It enhances the Asian flavor of any setting. It reminds us of our roots and of how we should live our lives in harmony and simplicity. The gold and green combination in bamboo creates an ambience of freshness and light-heartedness, which no other material offers.

Today, more and more people are beginning to appreciate this God-given wonder



THE RISEN LORD Chapel by Arch. Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa, featured bamboo for cladding and furniture (From his book *Designing Filipino*—Photo by Chester Ong)



A TRADITIONAL Hotel in Bali uses Bamboo as ceiling framing

Bamboo:
In this turbulent world, we stand proud and sway with the wind and know that as long we stand together, we will prevail

called bamboo. Research and experiments are continuously being made to find other uses and applications for it. Bamboo is being considered as an effective way to reinforce concrete. New products are currently being launched using bamboo as floor and wall tiles. Laminated bamboo finishes are being developed for wall panels and sidings.

In a recent building exhibition, a number of exhibitors launched their bamboo product lines in finishes and home décor, a sign of Filipino and Asian ingenuity. Innovative architects, like Bobby Mañosa, have long used it even as a roofing material in first-class resorts and residences, thus making bamboo a notable element for Filipino architecture.

Bamboo is no longer a material considered only for temporary applications. Technology has treated this humble material and made it stronger and more resilient to conform to modern needs and permanent applications.

Preventing erosion

Despite all this, some may still underestimate its uses. So here's more. Bamboo is one, if not the most economical and effective way to prevent erosion. It has a very resilient root system that holds on to the soil when exposed to the elements. This combined with "vegetation engineering" (vegetation and engineering) has proved effective in protecting the watersheds in the country.



DETAILS on the use of Bamboo in architecture. (From the book *Designing Filipino The Architecture of Francisco Mañosa*—by Eric S. Caruncho)

Bamboo provides for the livelihood of a lot of our brothers in the countryside trying to make ends meet. With this material now enjoying a surge in popularity, these families have a better chance of improving their way of life.

Reforestation program

Toward this end, a dynamic group of architects under the United Architects of the Philippines Port Bonifacio Chapter has recently launched a bamboo reforestation program. The pilot site for the project targets the Naguilian River Basin in La Union. This consists of a 20-hectare area within the towns of Bauang, San Fernando and Naguilian. This is part of a more comprehensive project undertaken by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the Naguilian River Basin Committee.

This is a two-prong approach that aims first to protect the environment by safeguarding the watershed from erosion and to support the continuous supply of potable water for the adjacent communities. These will be achieved by planting the bamboo on the banks of surrounding streams and tributaries. Secondly, the project will provide livelihood for the indigenous folks by allowing them to have an abundance of raw materials that may be used in a variety of ways.

This project may not seem to matter much globally but does matter a lot for those living around the area. In the overall vision, this will be the initial movement that could be replicated in other similar watershed areas as well.

Some may wonder why architects should be concerned with reforestation. The fact is, that it should be everyone's concern. However, architects dictate which materials to use and wood is one of the basics on the list. It isn't bad to use wood in construction, because it is a sustainable material. We can replace it and it will regrow for the use of future generations. Of course, architect or not, your help toward the environment will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in the above bamboo reforestation project, you may inquire via e-mail at arkinet@email.com.ph.

The bamboo may very well be the symbol of our country's resiliency. It has weathered storms, draught, forest fires, abuse and extreme conditions. But it stands proud and sways with the wind and knows that as long as more of its kind stands together, it will prevail!

Tamarind Cove offers privacy, strong community ties

HOMEOWNERS today are seeking communities that offer a balance between privacy and good social interaction among neighbors, according to the planners of Tamarind Cove.

Bobby Dy, vice president of Ayala Land Inc., developer of this last phase of the successful Ayala Alabang community, explains that unlike residents in Metro Manila's older residential areas who bordered their lots with high fences, the newer generations of lot owners want to have relations with their neighbors.

Strong ties

"They still consider their homes a private sanctuary but at the same time, they wish to have strong ties with others in their community," Dy observes. Planners incorporated community amenities where social interaction among neighbors could easily take place on a daily basis.

He relates that both these values influenced planning in the cozy 1.6-hectare neighborhood within Ayala Alabang. Lots in the 21-lot community range from 470 to 775 square meters, "good sizes for homes with lots of room and private spaces."

In addition, lots in Tamarind Cove are laid out in a cul-de-sac. Only vehicles destined for the neighborhood are likely to go there allowing greater privacy for the community as a whole.

Only a few lots are still available in the enclave which departs from traditional planning in residential subdivisions.

Amenities

The common amenities include a series of neighborhood gardens, an open lawn, a children's playground and a 400-meter jogging track which are just a few steps away from each of the lots. "We envisioned that residents would want to use these amenities for exercise and at the same time for catching up with neighbors."

Dy observes that Tamarind Cove prop-



TAMARIND Cove is the last phase of Ayala Alabang, Ayala Land's most successful development in southern Metro Manila.



TAMARIND Cove has been designed to foster social interaction among neighbors while allowing them privacy.

erty moved quickly in the market precisely because of all its added amenities.

Moreover, amenities in other phases of Ayala Alabang remain available to Tamarind Cove lot owners. These include three covered basketball courts, a soccer field, tennis courts, a community swimming pool as well as various playgrounds scattered all around the residential area.

Good location

Because of their location in a well-established community, Tamarind Cove residents may find that they no longer have to travel great distances for their needs. The thriving Ayala Alabang community includes the Alabang Town Cen-

ter and the Madrigal Business Park which hosts a good number of office buildings and commercial establishments.

Good schools, a number of medical institutions, various sports clubs and golf courses are also within the general vicinity. In the early morning and late in the afternoon, Ayala Alabang is likewise an ideal place for brisk walking and biking with gracious mango trees lining major roadways.

Tamarind Cove certainly offers the best of Ayala Alabang as well as the latest innovations in community building. For more details, please call 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph. Or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

PROPERTY

Treating dining rooms right

By Dianne Villafuerte

WE do not fuss over it that much, so long as there's a table big enough to accommodate the plates and utensils, the bowls of viands, the drinking glasses, and so long as there are enough chairs to sit the whole family.

For some, it doubles as a work area in between meals—paperwork from the office and school strewn all over the table, boxes and bags piled on top of the chairs—possibly due to lack of working space in the house. Then there are those families whose dining rooms are reserved for special occasions that they do not have their regular meals here. They would rather eat in a smaller, starker "dining area" in the kitchen or in front of the TV—being the couch potatoes some of us have become. Besides, most of us are constantly in a rush that it is nearly impossible to have dinner together with the whole family on a regular basis.

FENG SHUI

Stephanie Roberts of the Fast Feng Shui book series, tells us that making better the arrangement and atmosphere of one's dining room can also improve family relationships.

Most overlooked area

We may not realize it but the dining room—with its location, layout and space—has become one of the most overlooked areas in the house. Zaihong Shen, author of Feng Shui, Harmonizing Your Inner and Outer Space, suggests that, for houses or apartments with very limited space, homeowners should place the dining area near the kitchen to allow food to be served easily and far from the front door so as not to unconsciously create in the occupants a feeling of rushing through meals then immediately leaving the house.

While there is nothing wrong with doubling the purpose of the dining area, feng shui practitioners emphasize on keeping the dining room clean and free from avoidable clutter. There should be a feeling of roominess. A too heavy, bulky and dark dining set that is squeezed into a too small dining area creates a heavy and cramped feeling and obstructs the flow of favorable chi. Unnecessary boxes, bags and what-have-yous on the dining table and in the room also give the same impression. Letting your dining room breathe is very important.

Who says a pleasant ambiance is felt only from fine-dining restaurants? Having your dining area in warm, soothing and light earth colors is advisable since it gives a calming and serene effect on the diners. And while the place should be well-lit, home owners are encouraged to use lower wattage bulbs or even candles as ambient lighting provides a relaxing mood, especially after a busy day. What's more, this will also make you save on electricity, particularly at this time of rising power rates.

Using fine dinnerware

So what if it's not someone's anniversary or graduation? So what if it's still 20 days before Christmas? Get those table linens, china and silverware that you are reserving for special occasions and use them every once in a while—even if what you're having for dinner is the extremely modest munggo and galunggong. Roberts suggests that using fine dinnerware will reinforce how special your loved ones are to you.

A mirror in the dining room is also beneficial so long as it reflects only the food on the table or something eye-catching and appealing such as a good view from outside the house or an attractive piece of furniture or artwork. Food that is reflected on a mirror symbolizes abundance and wealth. But do not place the mirror on the ceiling over the dining table where it can also reflect the diners. In addition, if your mirror reflects what's on the dining table, make sure that the second is free from clutter.

If you belong to one of those families whose mealtimes include watching the TV as if it is part of your digestion process, try doing away with TV-viewing at least once or twice a week. Persuade the rest of the family to do the same. This will make everyone present to take pleasure in each other's company. It may even encourage an enjoyable albeit long-missed conversation with the whole family. And though it may be challenging and hard for some, ignore your cell phones and avoid answering text messages! Those forwarded jokes can wait for another hour, for goodness' sake. Regard even just one mealtime as a "sacred" way of spending quality time with your family, this will certainly promote positive chi and a harmonious relationship with your loved ones.



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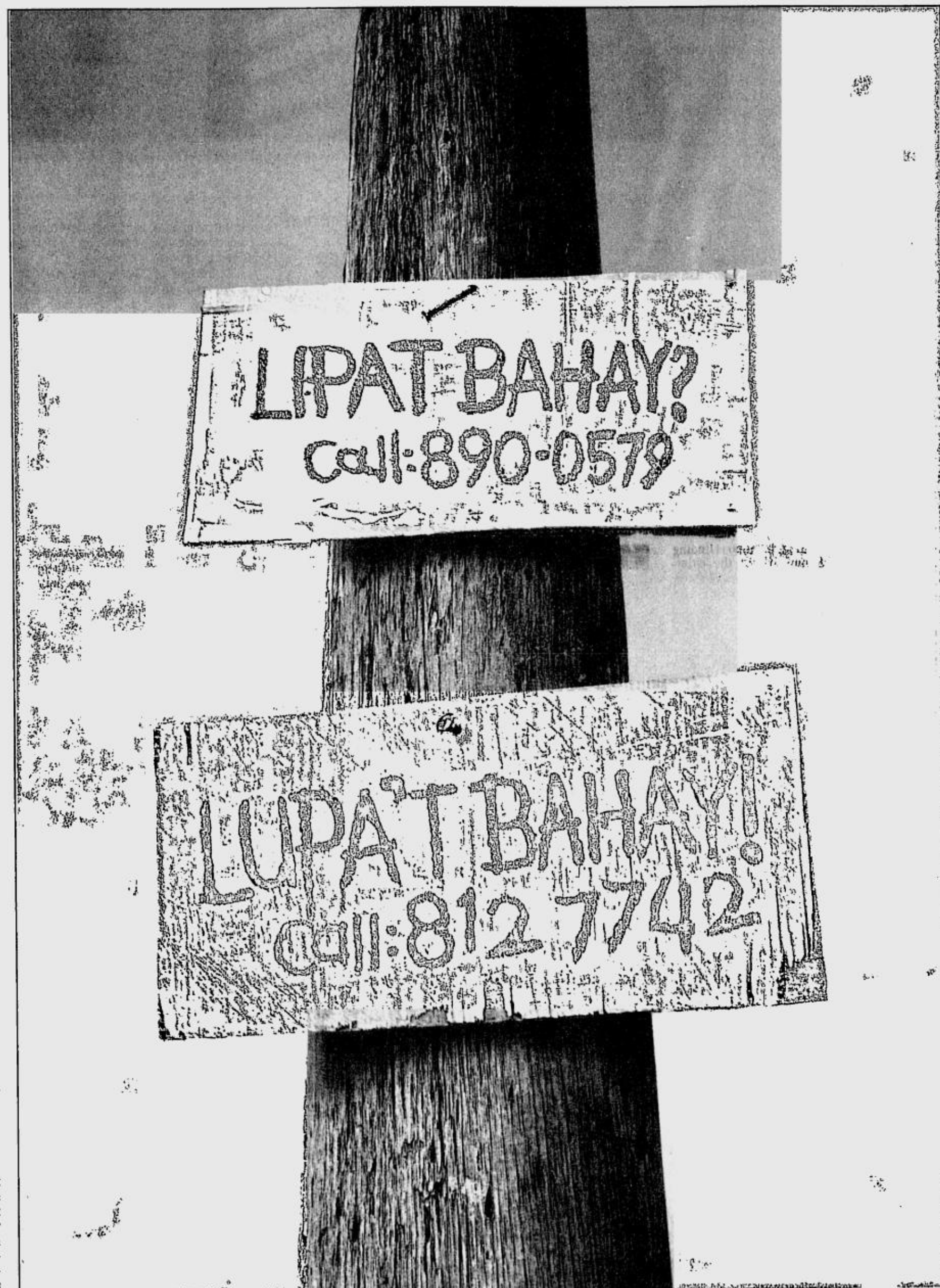


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A Lipat Bahay truck stops in front of Mang Danny's "new" house in Novaliches. This is the fourth time he's moving his family. "Pataas nang pataas kasi ang rental," says Mang Danny, a supervisor at an insurance company. He dreams that the next time they move, it's to their own house.

Mang Danny realize his dream in time. Starting with low-cost housing in the Laguna-Cavite areas, it now builds medium-rise condos in urban areas that are within the means of people like Mang Danny. So one day, he can finally hang a "Welcome Home" sign at his door.

Phinma Property Holdings Corporation (PPHC), the largest developer of affordable housing in Metro Manila specializing in Medium High-Rise Buildings (MHRB), might just make

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Eastwood City: Premier urban center in RP

A FEW years ago, topnotch US-based Klages, Carter Vail & Partners was commissioned by a visionary Filipino real estate company to transform a 16-hectare property in Libis, Quezon City, into a master-planned urban township with all the aspects of city living found within one carefully designed satellite community.

Today, Eastwood City is considered as the premier urban center in the Philippines: fully integrated and self-contained.

Eastwood City was envisioned at the crest of the changing times when modern living is anchored on convenience, harmony and pampering. Mindful of the evolving needs of people and market-driven forces, the entire Eastwood City master plan was divided into specific zones and phases to ensure that each part of the entire project seamlessly blends into one another.

Village center

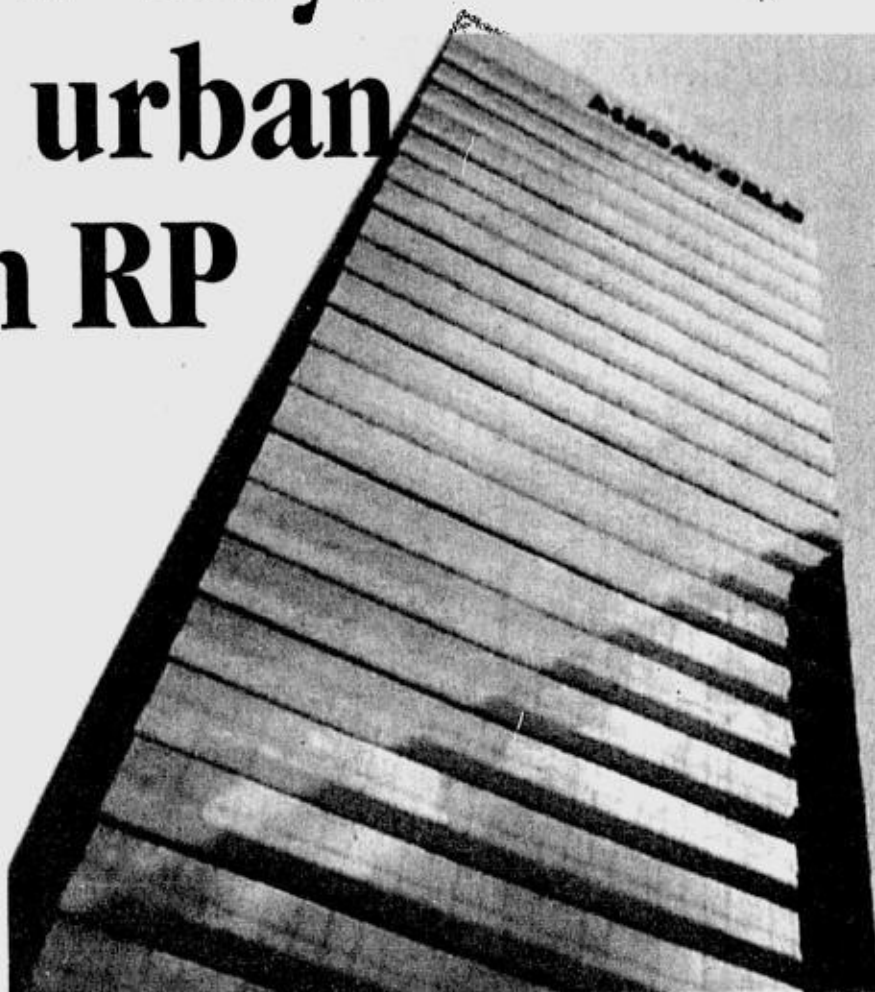
As a major component of the development, Megaworld Corp. envisaged to build a would-be entertainment and leisure hub situated right in the middle of the project. Designed as a village center, City Walk offers residents and visitors innumerable shops for lifestyle and convenience.

People can buy their grocery essentials at a supermarket just around the corner. They can also window-shop for stylish clothes, and state-of-the-art gadgets and electronics. Whether people are looking for trendy furniture and artworks, or want to learn a craft or hobby, everything is just a few steps away.

Today, Eastwood City Walk 1 is home to over 30 of the trendiest restaurants in the metro, and has become a hip destination for concerts, dance parties, fashion shows, pet shows and other social events.

New retail hub

To further strengthen Eastwood City's reputation as the "it" place for Manila's leisure set, City Walk 2 was added as a new retail center to complement the dining outlets of City



TWIN towers Cyber One, left, and IBM Plaza form part of the high-tech office block of Eastwood City, which is now home to some of the world's biggest financial firms, business processing outsourcing and IT companies



WHAT looks like one of the many famous Parisian sidewalk cafés is actually Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, one of the many dining outlets at the Eastwood City Walk 2 that has an al fresco area for those who want to people watch while sipping a cup of espresso.

Designed as a village center, City Walk offers residents and visitors innumerable shops for lifestyle and convenience

Walk 1. This Mediterranean-inspired retail hub with its quaint shops, pocket parks, graceful palm trees, bubbling water fountains and cobbled walkways is perfect for shopping and lounging out.

A brainchild of Recio+Casas Architects, this follow-up to the highly successful City Walk 1 has over 30 new restaurants, retail shops, 4 Dolby Digital EX cinemas, a state-of-the-art bowling and billiard center, an ultra-modern video arcade, providing first-rate entertainment to guests and residents.

Eastwood City Walk 2 is a new generation commercial and entertainment nexus that shows a dynamic shift in creating urban enclaves that are distinctly unique. Unlike the metro's gargantuan malls, it is rustic, charming and quaint—providing a welcome respite from today's fast-changing world.

The initial phase involved the construction of office blocks strategically located on Eastwood Avenue, the main road of Eastwood City. The office block is made up of The IBM Plaza, Cyber One and the Citibank Square. The fast-tracked development of this phase has caught the attention of internationally

renowned names like Citibank and IBM, prompting them to relocate their major operations to Eastwood City.

Choice of residence

Encircling Eastwood City is a selection of exclusive high-rise residences, giving interested buyers a choice from classic to modern America, to a touch of Asian mystic. There is Olympic Heights, a trio of exclusive residential towers. Eastwood Lafayette is a row of residential condominiums offering a wired environment and concierge services. On the other hand, One Central Park is a 38-story luxury residential tower that carefully blends modern influences of Asia's finest enclaves and the lush gardens of Europe.

Other residential projects are One Orchard Road, Eastwood Parkview, Grand Eastwood Palazzo and the Eastwood Excelsior.

Delight in a unique lifestyle at Metro Manila's most exciting core that offers all the aspects of city living in one carefully designed, trend-setting community that is slowly transforming the way people live, work and play.

Mountain retreat for city dwellers

WITH ITS prime upslope location, the Woodridge at Tagaytay Highlands provides city dwellers a quieter, more secluded retreat away from the busy metropolis.

Rugged timber, mountain rocks and slate roofing create a harmonious and inviting hideaway whether you're a successful businessman or a busy executive of a large corporation. Surrounded by some of the most breathtaking sceneries outside of Metro Manila, the Woodridge is only an hour-and-a-half drive away from the Makati central business district and is among the many communities of exclusive Tagaytay Highlands.

While the building's architecture evokes images of North American mountain resorts and villages, the condominium interiors, equally exquisite in its cozy splendor, are designed to take your breathe away.

Ideal haven

Created for people who want the best in life, The Woodridge at Tagaytay Highlands is the ideal haven for tired bodies and weary minds. It is the perfect getaway for today's growing breed of modern metro-naturals.

Von Friedrich and Lilia Aaron-Peterro are successful entrepreneurs who are as passionate with their businesses as they are with golf. With their only daughter already married and starting a family of

her own, Lilia now also dabbles in painting. She is partial to still life, and scenes from nature is a recurring theme in her colorful artworks.

Love for the game

A sportsman by heart, Lilia was into pelota and tennis before taking up golf six years ago. Her son-in-law introduced her to the game of golf and today she shares with her family the love for the game.

One of the first residents of the Woodridge, Lilia and Von hie off to scenic Tagaytay every week for some golf and relaxation. Away from the frenzied pace of living in the city, they spend time with family and friends, catching up on each other's life. As avid golfers, they always start their day with a round at the world-class fairways of the Highlands golf course.

After which they head off to nearby popular Highlands restaurants like China Palace and The Steakhouse. When they want some good old-fashioned home cooking, they whip up a culinary feast in the kitchen of their Woodridge unit and invite friends over. Lilia admits it is a welcome opportunity to get back to basics, and indulge in the simple pleasures of life.

Self-contained community

"I love it here. It is so relaxing, a world away from what we are used to in the concrete jungles of Manila," enthuses Lilia. "One of my dearest friends said

that the weather reminds her of San Francisco, California," she adds.

Apart from the pollution-free environment, Lilia loves that the Highlands is a self-contained community, offering utmost privacy and security to the residents. If not for the demands of her business, "I would readily give up my Makati high-rise condominium unit and move permanently to the Woodridge," she adds.

Natural air-conditioning

On clear days they can see as far as Laguna Lake from the balcony of their Woodridge unit. The best, according to her, is that they don't have to turn on the air-conditioning because of the year-round nippy weather. They've even coined their own system of natural air-conditioning.

"Leave the windows wide open if you want it high cool, half open if you prefer medium cool, and closed for low cool," she proudly shares. Life at the Woodridge, according to Mrs. Peterro, is what living is all about, and more!

Perfect weekend place

Another proud and satisfied Woodridge unit owner is manufacturing executive Frederic Te who believes that the Woodridge at Tagaytay Highlands is the perfect weekend place that is well suited to his present needs.



THE LIVING room of one of the model units at the Woodridge at Tagaytay Highlands

"There are only two ways I spend my leisure time. I either play golf or bond with my family," shares Frederic. He makes it a point to go to Tagaytay Highlands at least twice a month and spend the weekends relaxing and playing golf with family and friends.

The Woodridge is the first property he purchased in Tagaytay. "It's easier to maintain a condominium," Frederic emphasizes. "And with the spectacular views everywhere you look, there's nothing more you can ask for," he adds.

The Peterros and the Tes are just few of the families who have switched to

spending their weekends out of town. Designed with the rustic elegance of combined stone and timber with modern conveniences and luxury in every detail, the Woodridge is the ideal weekend retreat where one can rejuvenate the spirit and energize the body before heading back to the city. No wonder, owners keep coming home to the comfort and serenity of country living at the Woodridge.

The Woodridge at Tagaytay Highlands is a project of Highlands Prime Inc., a publicly listed leisure property development company, majority owned by the SM Group.

At Sierra Madre village, every room of homes has a view

DESIGN philosopher, architect Dan Lichauco, has added another feather to his cap. He never fails to come out with something better than what he's done in the past.

Having worked previously on projects such as the new Medical City and Ateneo Rockwell when he was with the firm of Francisco Mañosa, Lichauco brings to his model houses a design that celebrates space.

Masterful work

One such masterful work is a 240-square-meter Sierra Madre home which features four outstanding model homes and plans designed by Archaeon's principal architect Dan Lichauco.

His model houses have a much wider and open feel, with none of the tightness and seeming want



LIVING ROOM: Interiors of the house are defined by cozy and uncluttered layout.

of space. He has done this by letting the landscape in and extending the sense of space to the outside.

Sierra Madre Village is located in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, developed by Sta. Elena Properties. Every home is in the fringe of the coun-

try's best golf course, the Sta. Elena Golf Course, opens up to refreshing views of its vaunted fairways. Keeping in mind Sierra

Madre's country setting and mix of landowners, he designed the houses in prairie style, with a distinct tropical Filipino touch. The prairie thus lends a beautifully bucolic surrounding and warm, closely-knit family community atmosphere.

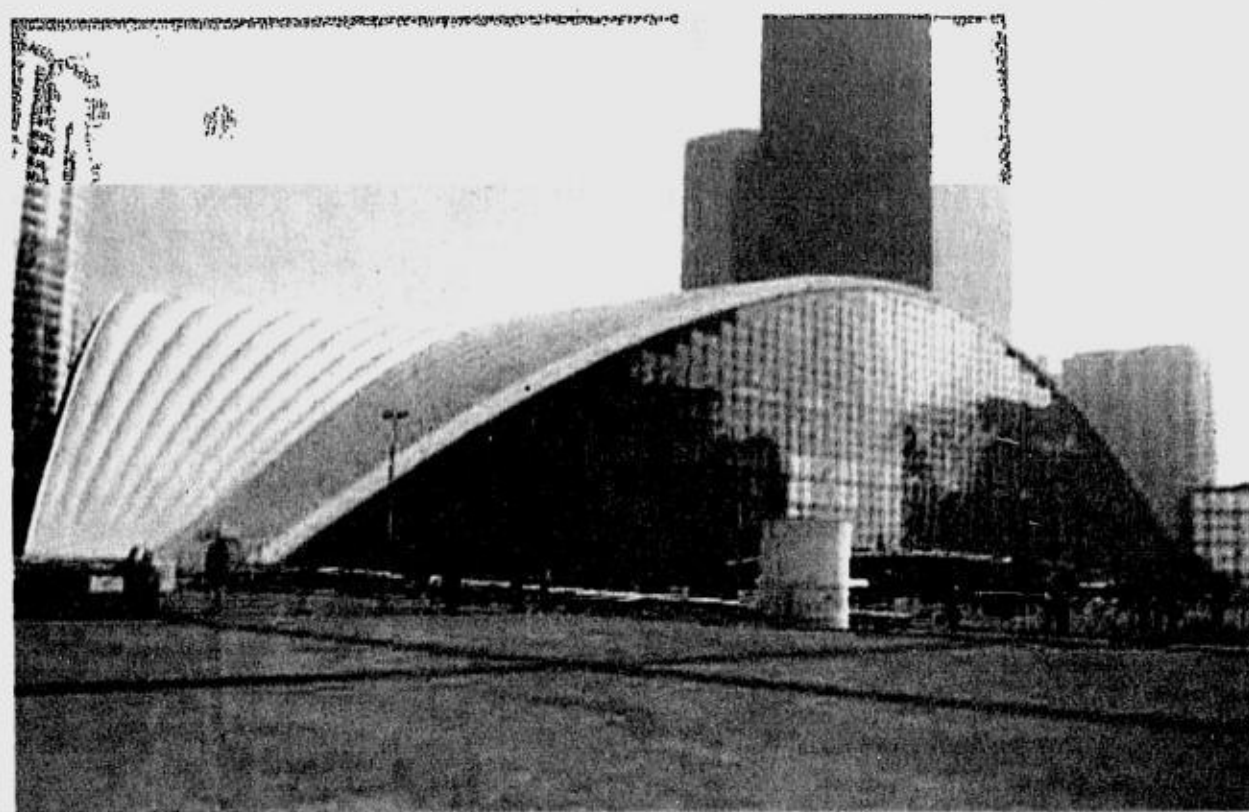
Shaped like an L, the model house comes with three bedrooms, family room and den, which can be converted into another room. The open landscaped area outside is creatively brought in with generous glass doors and ceiling windows. The living area becomes a veritable sanctuary as it welcomes in breathtaking sights of the front gardens, thus a sense of overflowing space is provided by natural views all around.

Prime appeal

Envisioned to look every bit

like a designer house for early nesters, it veers from the design model of the cookie-cutter, uniform look suburban residential villages. The plans of the four model houses boast of prime appeal, intended for Sta. Elena target market—individuals who appreciate sophisticated design values. All individually unique, the plans allow a certain level of customization, giving the homeowners an opportunity to create a living space that is without doubt handcrafted for him and his family.

Sta. Elena Sierra Madre Village has a list of reasons envied by many, making it such a desirable piece of real estate with a breathtaking location. For inquiries, please call 887-2390 or 0920-9118105.



CENTRE National des Industries et Techniques

Windows to let the world in

THE LARGEST windows in the world can be found installed in the Centre National des Industries et Techniques, or CNIT, located at Rondpoint de la

AMAZING STRUCTURES

Défense, Paris, France. Made up of several panes of glass, each of the massive windows is bigger than the average house with a measurement of 715 feet wide and 164 feet tall.

Designed as a national exhibition and con-

ference center, the CNIT was built between 1957 and 1958. During the time of its creation, it was regarded by many as the "construction of the century" giving credit for the most part to its striking glass structure. André Malraux, French novelist and politician, was so amazed with the colossal windows that he likened it to the great Gothic cathedrals.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible..." Now, with windows as huge as the CNIT's every single culture can absolutely waft around CNIT.

Dianne Villafuerte

The new face of condo living

CONDOMINIUM developments have evolved to meet the changing needs of the market. Today, these addresses offer a balanced lifestyle by combining residential, retail and recreational elements in one package.

Bringing such a lifestyle to life is One Central Park, a 38-story luxury residential high-rise set in property giant Megaworld Corp.'s Eastwood City.

Complete environment

"One Central Park creates a complete, well-connected environment where comfort, fun and convenience all come together," said John Natividad, vice president for marketing of Megaworld marketing arm Eastwood Property Holdings Inc.

Fusing the modern influences of Asian design with the famed gardens of Europe, the development features 374 units ranging from executive studios to three-bedroom suites available from 36 to 128 square meters.

But more than elegant accommodations, One Central Park showcases its leading edge in urban property development with a four-story mall at the podium deck. At the fifth level above the mall is an amenity or play deck, while at the foot of the building is a lush park.

"At One Central Park, we have created better experiences for homeowners," Natividad said. "From home, they can reach the mall, the play area or the park with ease. An elevator ride takes them wherever they want to go," he added.

Mall, park

One Central Park's mall hosts a department store, specialty shops, dining establishments, as well as four movie theaters.

The play deck, on the other hand, features a lap pool with a paved sunbathing deck, changing rooms with shower, a multipurpose room, gym, sauna and children's play area. It evokes images of a tropical paradise with a centerpiece lagoon, tree-lined walkways and landscaped grounds.

Also very close to home are leisure strips Eastwood City Walk 1 and 2. Literally just a few paces away, they offer more specialty shops, cafés, bars, restaurants and entertainment outlets for One Central Park residents.

Easily accessible

From One Central Park, Makati and Ortigas are easily accessible through the C-5 Road. Meanwhile, top schools Ateneo, UP and Miriam College are an easy commute away via Katipunan Avenue.

"By bringing everything closer to home, One Central Park becomes a personal statement of how homeowners can achieve balance in their lives," Natividad said.

An investment in One Central Park's complete lifestyle starts as low as P18,000 a month. For inquiries, please call 421-4243 or 421-4247 or visit the Eastwood City Information Center on Orchard Road, Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C-5), Quezon City.

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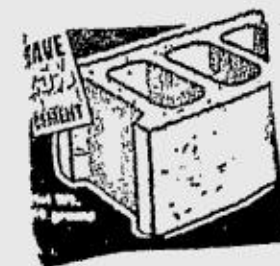
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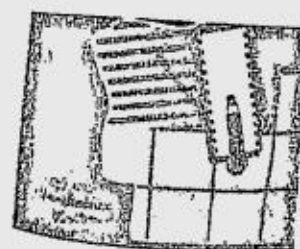
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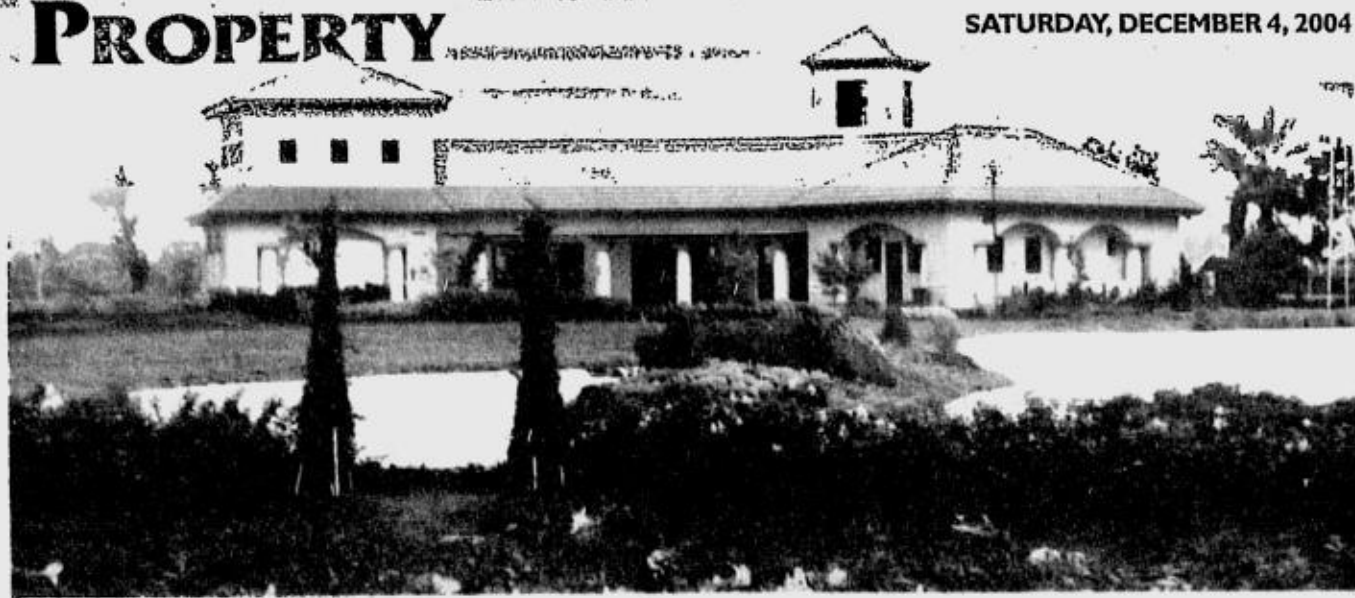
Robinsons Land Corp. recently held the groundbreaking ceremonies of One Adriatico Place, a 38-story residential condominium right beside Robinsons Place Manila. The groundbreaking is two months earlier than the original schedule of January 2005. OAP units come in studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom suites. From left are RLC project director Manny Arce, RLC general manager for high-rise buildings division Danilo E. Ignacio, architect William V. Coscolluela and engineer Conrado Goco.



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Discover the art and heart of living with Brittany Corp.



VITA Toscana

TO ROUSE to a glorious day with sunshine spilling into your charming room, listen to the chirping of birds and breathe in the fresh breeze while marveling at quaint vistas—the elusive dream of families with cultivated tastes and lifestyles in search of the idyllic neighborhood in which to raise a lovely family.

Such imperative features are comple-

mented by the vision of owning a home comparable to the beguiling charm of neo-Victorian homes along "Postcard Row" in San Francisco's Alamo Square, picturesque splendor of Swiss chalets in the Swiss Alps amid hectares of pine trees, an abode in the seaport town south of historic Italy, or villas in the quaint and rustic province of Tuscany.

Track record

With over 10 years of unwa-

vering track record for trendsetting upscale and uniquely themed developments, Brittany Corp. now brings forth residential communities of ingenious design with a beguiling ambiance enhanced by thriving landscaping—offering more than just pleasant communities but a way of life.

For those deserving of the fruits of success, Brittany creates more than just residential communities but a way of life. Successfully combining the seemingly contrasting benefits of access and escape, Brittany presents seven

projects namely: La Posada and Victorienne in Sucat; CrossWinds in Tagaytay; Portofino in Alabang; and Vita Toscana in Cavite; Viera in Sucat; and Trails of La Marea in Laguna. Each development's inspiration is drawn from distinctive European origins.

Relished creations

Brittany Bay, the flagship project of Brittany Corp., presents a "community of neighborhoods" meant for individuals who have found a place in the world.

Design philosophy

360° Living's 5-point design



VICTORIANNE Quadrille



VICTORIANNE Duetto

philosophy—intelligent use of space; shelter around activity; multifunctionality; space of one's own; and interior views are tenaciously observed to create comfortable yet tasteful sanctuaries.

Brittany's exquisite selection of European designed residential communities boasts of more features that provide its residents the art and heart of living. Expansive lots and home packages can accommodate the different needs and desires of each family. A wide array of first-rate leisure and athletic facilities and amenities are available in all of the seven developments, offering rejuvenation and the chance to foster ties with your

family and neighbors.

Nature remains protected and nurtured, as each design takes advantage of the land's natural contours while embellished and thriving landscaping gives each resident the rare find of unspoiled nature in their own backyard.

A mere visit to any of Brittany developments promises you an unforgettable experience. Ponder at what Brittany residents can savor.

Interested parties may arrange property previews at La Posada, Victorienne, CrossWinds, Portofino, Vita Toscana, Viera and Trails of La Marea, by calling up Brittany at 859-6986, 850-2868 and 850-3084.



CROSSWINDS Quadrille

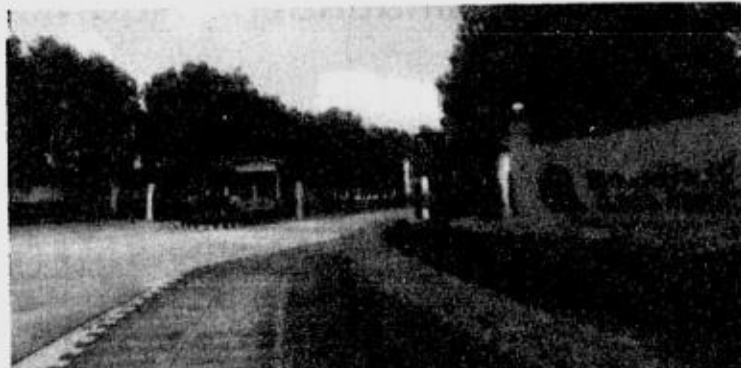
Greenfield City to make a mark in the South's new growth center

STA. Rosa, Laguna, is on its way to becoming South of Manila's newest business, commercial and residential hub. Proof of this comes with the growing number of multinational and local companies building roots of their businesses here, as well as choice residential communities that cater to modern Filipino families. With major access infrastructures also in place, progress is in the offing.

Greenfield Development Corp. (GDC) is just one that seized the opportunity for growth in this booming town. With the immense Greenfield City project, GDC is poised for the imminent increase of residents, employees and investors with carefully master-planned property and community development projects on its own. Its vision is to transform the idle land into bustling, cosmopolitan district, merging tranquil, relaxed environment with modern, high-tech structure facilities.

Business district

With the capital city's prominent financial districts almost congested, companies are sure to



THE 65-hectare Greenfield Auto Park is the site of Ford Motor Phils. Inc. manufacturing plant. Ford is the second largest car manufacturer in the world.

find the Santa Rosa Business Park (SRBP), Greenfield City's business district, a more conducive spot to operate their businesses. SRBP offers complete business environment as it provides abundant space accessibility, security and valued amenities well suited for both established or even start-up businesses.

Considering the congested Manila traffic, SRBP proved most convenient and accessible with the recent upgrade of the Southern Luzon Express (SLEX) and

the imminent opening of the ABI-Greenfield City Interchange.

Auto park

Creating a niche for the thriving car industry is the Greenfield Auto Park (GAP). The 65-hectare special economic zone within Greenfield City is home for Ford Motor Philippines Inc., the world's second largest car company.

Covering 25 hectares for its manufacturing plant, Ford is not the only firm in the automotive

industry that settles at the GAP. Foreign companies such as Visteon Philippines Corp. and Automotive Interiors Corp. stand to gain with its nearness to Ford. Said companies are involved in the production of Ford's automotive electrical circuits and lining interiors.

To complement GAP is the Greenfield Automall, a 5-hectare integrated automotive retail and commercial establishment dedicated to car dealership, car accessories and auto parts shop as well as a driving school and themed cafés. This newest auto strip is Laguna's answer to the popular Banawe strip in Metro Manila, especially with the presence of Mitsubishi-Amcar.

Ideal for leisure, shopping

Residents, workers and students alike are likely to flock to Paseo de Santa Rosa, Greenfield City's town center. Designed to carry the rustic charm and calm of Santa Rosa, the now popular commercial hub proved to be an ideal stop for fine dining, groceries, beauty and body care as



GREENFIELD CITY'S town center offers fine dining, fast food and entertainment outlets, retail shops and wet and dry market.

well as a great place for entertainment with great dining and wholesome nightly shows at the Promenade.

It has specialty restaurants, fast-food outlets as well as retail shops and banks, all to answer the needs of its growing patrons.

Paseo de Santa Rosa is also gaining popularity among sports buffs and enthusiasts with the opening of sport outlets such as Nike Park, Speedo, Adidas, Dunlop and Slazenger.

Those on the lookout for fresh food finds would be more than happy to drop in at Santa Rosa County Market. Conveniently situated alongside Paseo de Santa

Rosa, the modern, clean dry and wet market sells fresh, reasonably priced produce. It provides breezy indoor shopping with clean surroundings and lots of parking spaces.

Soon, a residential project catering to new families will start. Also, into the first phase of construction is the South Luzon Hospital and Medical Center.

Steadily, Greenfield City shows its potential as a complete community that not only sees to the needs of integral sectors of society but also fosters significant growth and development deemed to benefit the country as a whole.

Home for the holidays at the Columns, Ayala Avenue



A FAMILY embarks on a holiday shopping spree.

THIS holiday season, it's time to consider the convenience of what an urban address can do to redefine your life. The Columns, Ayala Avenue is that perfect address.

In Makati, the rush of Christmas sales is as much of a tradition as the miles of lights that transform Ayala Avenue into a lane out of fairy tales. At Christmastime, throngs of people dash in and out of department stores and boutiques, hurrying to fit in their shopping into their busy workdays. Lunch hour, afternoon break and the evening rush are punctuated by stops at Glorietta or Greenbelt or a department store, in search of a perfect gift for family, friends and loved ones. The season of giving can turn into the season of getting stressed.

Holiday shopping trips

But for those who live in Makati's business and shopping districts, the holiday shopping trips can fit easily into their everyday schedules. The best stores and most inviting shopping cen-

ters are either within walking distance or just a short drive away. More important, those who live in and around Ayala Avenue and its environs have a shelter, a refuge, a base of operations to which they can withdraw from the helter-skelter of the Christmas rush and from which they can strike out on a new shopping adventure.

For those who desire a lifestyle like this and a place of their own, in the heart of Makati, look no further than The Columns, Ayala Avenue.

The Columns soars at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia). Its three 30-story towers contain an appealing mix of two-bedroom homes, chic one-bedroom pads and stylish studio units, designed and priced with the young urban achiever in mind.

Every unit's windows take in views of the city and countryside, including spectacular portraits of the Makati skyline, so magnificent at Christmastime. Inside,

unit features intelligently designed help create a home out of every unit, from spacious bathrooms to well-ventilated kitchens to windows in every room.

Recreation Club

The Columns, Ayala Avenue also boasts the best integration of amenities in its class, with a Recreation Club offering a swimming pool, a kiddie pool, a fitness center, game center, home theater, function rooms, outdoor function space, jogging path, day care center, children's playground and more—all located high above the city streets. The Recreation Club is located at the top of the seven-story podium linking The Columns' three towers, a podium that also houses parking spaces for residents and cafés, convenient stores and cozy dining spots at its ground floor.

Its location makes it convenient to dash in and out to work and shopping during the day without any stress at all. Imagine being able to take your time in the morn-

ing to walk to work, because your office is just five or 10 minutes away. You can come home during lunch. If you have late hours, home is so close by, you don't have to worry about when and how to get there. Go shopping and drop off your purchases and then head out again. This is the lifestyle you want, the lifestyle of the young urban achiever offered by The Columns.

A project of Community Innovations Inc., an Ayala company, The Columns provides the security and peace of mind that comes with being associated with the country's most respected and reputable developer.

This holiday season, give yourself the gift of an urban lifestyle you deserve—at The Columns, Ayala Avenue.

For inquiries, call 750-0471 or 750-0484 or email ci-sales@ayaland.com.ph or visit www.thecolumns.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing at the 3rd Floor Glorietta 3, Ayala Center.

Looking for inspirations

By Pinky B. Cruz

I AM trying to remember now when I did the best interior designs that really captured all my senses, rendering masterful pieces of creation that left me feeling so satisfied.

Not because they received favorable reviews but mainly because the whole process was so connected with me personally.

Dry spells

Mostly, for us in the design field where expressing ourselves must be continuous and almost like brushing one's teeth the moment you wake up, looking for inspirations

COMMENTARY

proves to be the most challenging task ahead.

There's the most common writer's block and the artist's soul-searching on what subject matter to paint. One may very well be reminded of birth pangs. I, for one, agonize in search for the next best thing, and sometimes my search has to go deeper, connecting me to the desires of my soul, the simplest pleasures I encounter, the tactile exhilaration I have in the very mundane chores there are.

Burning passion

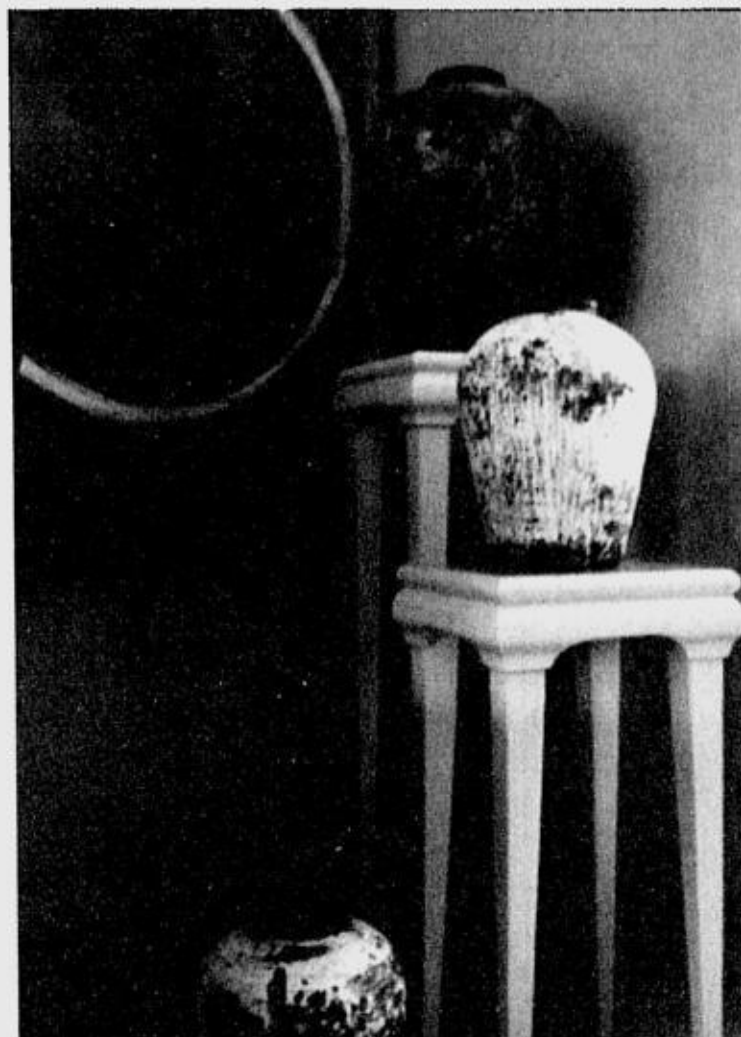
Designing is much like romancing. You have to fall in love with unexplained passion at the very thought of the one you are drawn to. Immersing your being in this pursuit is all-consuming in itself. One time, I fashioned a house inspired by a gift of old postcards of historical Paris. The sepia prints evoked a glorious past that drove me in a frenzy. Later I interpreted that in my monochromatic brown interior that waxed nostalgia like poetry.

In the book *The Awakened Heart*, Gerald May writes, "There is a desire within each of us, in the deep center of ourselves that we call our heart. We were born with it, it is never completely satisfied, and it never dies. We are often unaware of it, but it is always awake. Our true identity, our reason for being, is to be found in this desire."

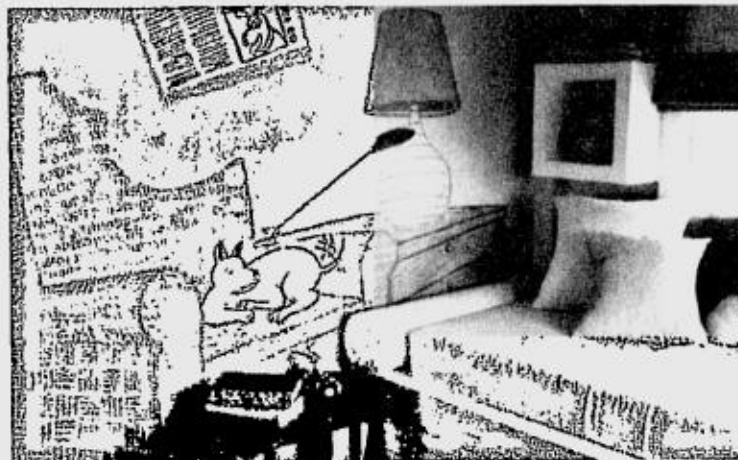
Yes, there is no exception to this. Only, some of us have heightened awareness in the very simple inspirations because we cultivate it to grow and serve our purpose, like they are extensions of ourselves. That explains why some just live while others live in style and passion.

Sensory overload

Some weeks back, I watched the ballet "Isang Bagong Bituin" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in an attempt to be inspired. And I was transfixed. Having all my senses activated to accepting human beauty made my mind race to create and experience an epiphany. I went home that night with tons of insights.



AN ANTIQUE jar with a chalky fossilized layering becomes my starting point for the color scheme of not only the painting but of the entire house.



Never kill your source of inspiration with too much practicality. Inspirations thrive in freedom. Don't commit the mistake of putting so much weight on how your design would sell to people. When all functions are mapped out, forget people and go in the "zone."

(For comments or suggestions, please e-mail me at pinkycruz@creativepost.com.ph)

AFTER READING a cartoon strip, I was inspired to create a little boy's room with the whole page of it as his bedside companion, done in a larger than life perspective.



CAREFUL color selections and use of mirror created an illusion of space for the entire unit.

It pays to live in a condo, RLC tells you why

CONDO living? Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC), owner and developer of the 33-story Galleria Regency gives compelling reasons we should try out this classic lifestyle.

No. 1 reason is location. Galleria Regency is strategically located beside the Robinsons Galleria, a shopping mall that affords GR condo owners with unparalleled convenience. The Ortigas Central Business District is also a stone's throw away so GR residents need not travel far to reach their workplace.

Other factors to be considered are design and security. This 33-story tower has been designed to match up these needs so that the condo owner looks forward to going home to a cozy haven. There are only few units to a floor with each unit having an average floor area of more than 100 square meters per unit. Prospective buyers can choose from two-bedroom, three-bedroom and penthouse units which are situated from 21st floor up to 29th floor.

Residents have exclusive access to an indoor pool, function and game room and an aerobics room and gym at the mezzanine floor.

There are still a few units left for sale. Interested buyers may visit the onsite Galleria Regency model unit's showroom or call 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.



GALLERIA Regency is strategically located beside the Robinsons Galleria and it is just a stone's throw away from the Ortigas central business district.



SM Iloilo in Delgado will open on Dec. 8, 2004

SM store reopens in Iloilo

DOWNTOWN shopping in Iloilo perks up with the reopening of the new SM Department Store on Delgado on Wednesday.

The original SM store first opened in Iloilo in 1979, bringing its shopping excitement to this bustling Western Visayas city. It had become a shopping landmark for many years, and was due for a makeover.

New look

The new store was designed to serve a new generation of shoppers as well as the changing needs of those who had grown up with the store. While it will still have the one-stop shopping convenience, exciting merchandise assortment and service it has been known for, it will have a new look for contemporary lifestyles.

Suddenly, downtown has become uptown with the SM store's sleek and contemporary design. Color is key in the 22,000 square meter store's interiors and exteriors, giving it full visibility from the street with eye catching big scale graphics.

Customer-friendly store

Upon entering the two-level store, shoppers will be welcomed by interiors that exude a

modern and friendly ambience. Lighting enhances the merchandise, aisles are wide, and departments designed to allow easy movement for customers to make it a customer-friendly store. Innovations like a standard panel merchandising system were also introduced.

The store's first level consists of its Ladies, Mens and Teens Wear, Shoes, Accessories, Philippine Crafts, and Watsons Department stores. The second level, on the other hand, places great emphasis on home elements and children's and infants' sections—clothes, shoes and lots of toys.

New SM design image

The new SM Department Store is linked by a grand concourse area to other retail outlets in the complex. These include the SM Supermarket, Appliance Center, ACE Hardware, and other shops.

Overall, the new store reflects the new SM design image for all provincial stores going forward. Whether a new location or a renovation, each SM store is an evolution of design and a great shopping experience.

The new SM Department Store complex is located at the corner of Delgado and Valera Streets in Iloilo City.



LATEST PROJECT

Developer LSL Realty and Development Corp. (897-3305/07) announces the availability of its latest project, the LSL Realty-Kalawaan II, regarded as an evolution and reinvention in warehouse design conceived by architect Joey Castillo and conceptualized by LSL Realty operations officer Blue Viray.

Now more than ever, you should protect your investment with the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System



Termites can greatly diminish the value of your property. Be wise. Protect it with the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System.

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It's not how much you're willing to spend for a safe and effective termite control system, it's how much you value your property that counts.

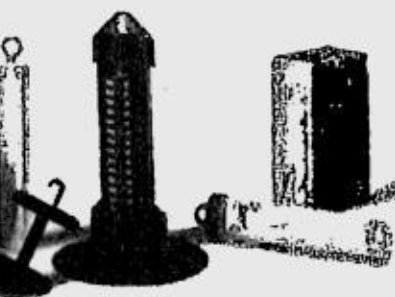
So whether you want to eliminate a colony or prevent one from being established, you can't go wrong with Sentricon.

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2004 Banner Year Performance Spurs Federal Land's Optimism for 2005 and Beyond

The early turn-over of units to owners of Orchid Tower of the prestigious Oriental Gardens Makati and the brisk progress of the Lotus Tower's construction ahead of schedule, reaffirms the confidence of Federal Land, Inc. on the property development and real estate industry of the country.

Already, Oriental Garden's Lotus Tower super structure has been completed and is now focused on internal works within the residential units. December will see the completion of the Lotus Tower Lobby and the grand opening of its new model units.

The recent industry report of over 30% growth in the industry also reflects in the almost always rafter-packed open-houses and advance reservations in other on-going developments and properties of Federal Land,

whether, commercial buildings, and their high-rise condominiums.

Not even six months since Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando cut the ceremonial ribbons during the ground-breaking ceremonies of the most modern property development in this suburban city, Marquinton Marikina, a self-contained community, is now launching its second residential cluster this month as well. Only a very few, choice commercial outlets remain available at their Blue Wave @ Marquinton mall, which will be soft opening along Sumulong Highway & Fernando Avenue, this December. The first outlets will be the Petron Service Station along with the new Jollibee outlet.

With over 90% of units at the Bay Gardens' Anchor Bay Tower sold out,

the newest phase of this bay area luxury condominium will soon launch its newest structure called Mactan Bay. To serve as another beacon light on the shores of the Manila Bay, Bay Gardens is located at Metropolitan Park, at the corner of Roxas Boulevard & EDSA (near Toyota Manila Bay).

The Mactan Bay tower will feature new amenities to complement the luxuries of the three other towers. The five-star amenities will include a swimming pool and wading pool, outdoor children's playground and sandbox, lush tropical gardens with poolside cabanas, a game room, among others. Mactan Bay will make available a choice of 1BR, Executive 1BR, 2 and 3BR units, all with lanais, to suit individual discerning lifestyles.

In spite of the mixed views of

economists in early 2004, Federal Land Inc. has continued with its development and marketing plans and activities without pause. The deep experience of over 30 years in the real estate and property development industry, provides the company's financial strength and backbone to put its projects steadily on stream.

The aggressive marketing initiatives and follow-throughs of their sales and marketing professionals enables Federal Land to maintain its lead in the highly and fiercely competitive property and realty sales. After a series of successful marketing blitzes, the top producing sales professionals of Federal Land were awarded a brief R & R in Hong Kong, the start of the last quarter of 2004.

What is considered as a gem of a property in Quezon City is Valencia Hills, a Spanish-villa inspired high-rise condominium, complemented with modern household amenities. Privacy, a primordial requirement of its very discriminating homeowners,

is guaranteed by its equally select buyers of units.

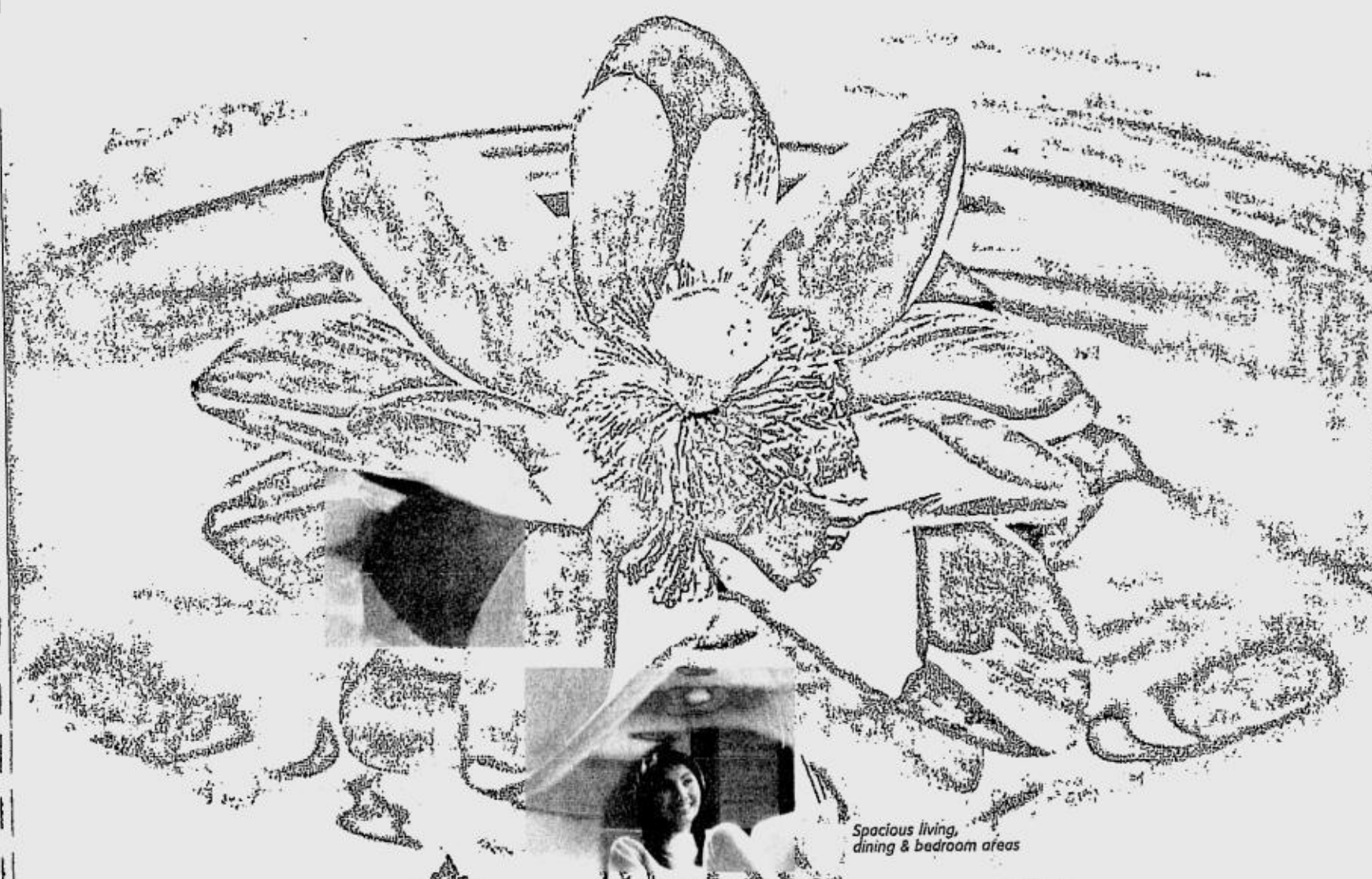
"Another strength of our company", according to Ramon H. Aldaba, Federal Land's first vice president for Sales & Marketing, is the avant-garde perspective in satisfying their customers' needs and desires. For example, the GT International Tower along Ayala Avenue in Makati City reflects the ultra modern look and achiever profiles of top multinational companies that have made GT International Tower its chosen business address.

"In the case of the residential units," Aldaba averred, "gracious living, refinements in our amenities and appointments, good taste and community warmth - are the guiding lines and standards in our building designs. Nothing is spared in the areas of convenience and functionality".

With Federal Land residential units, one gets not only a place to live in, but more importantly, a place for families to bloom & grow in a conducive environment.

ADVT

The center of a vibrant city lifestyle.
Live where it blooms.



ORIENTAL GARDENS

M A K A T I
The Executive Residential Condo

now invites you to call its second tower home:
a plush residential haven soon to blossom
close to the heart of the Central Business District.

The Lotus Tower.

Rising 32 storeys above Makati,
it features amenities unparalleled
in comfort, security, and peace of mind.

The harmony between design and lifestyle.
The fusion of comfort and affordability.
Lotus Tower, at Oriental Gardens Makati:
your new home; transcending
the dynamic, fast-paced
tempo of the city.



A city lifestyle you'll
call your own.



Outdoor Jacuzzi



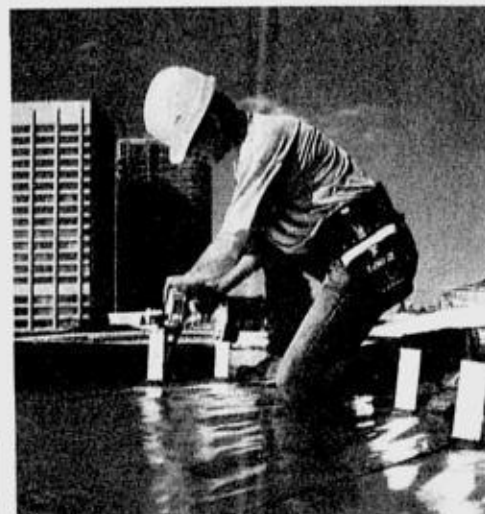
Aerobics and
fitness gym



Outdoor Garden



Landscaped
swimming pool



DEWALT tools promise ease of use and
shorter construction time

Supporting industries with powerful, reliable tools

By Charles E. Buban

FOR DEWALT, a \$1.5-billion plus global business and the leading name in consumer, industrial power tools and accessories around the world, the goal has been quite straightforward: discovering new and better ways to get the job done.

"Even from the beginning, the company's founder Raymond DeWalt has been designing machines that meet special needs while at the same time creating more labor-efficient environment," revealed Anthony Allarey, commercial manager of DeWalt Philippines (a division of Black & Decker Asia Pacific).

He cited that DeWalt has made it a point to design tools that make work lighter and faster especially in construction industries where project duration is given great consideration.

Spend time with tool users

Allarey also added that in every place where the company is located (83 countries), its people continuously go out and spend time with tool users—listening to their needs and concerns.

"To be the best in the business, you need to be constantly in touch with the market, working in close cooperation with construction outfits, home developers, manufacturers and even household clients," he said.

Allarey added that the company has been continuously visiting construction sites where it conducts product demonstrations and lectures.

"The Philippines is relatively a new market for DeWalt and we want to establish the brand's worldwide reputation as the finest, with products all engineered to provide years of reliable, heavy-duty performance, and backed by unmatched customer service and support," Allarey said.

Over 200 products

At present, DeWalt Power Tools line consists of over 200 electric power tools and over 800 accessories including drilling accessories, circular saw blades, grinding discs and general purpose blades.

"As a manufacturer of power tools, DeWalt, however, do not sell these products direct to the public and instead, has established partnerships with most home centers, hardware stores and industrial supply houses," he added.

Not until 1992

Although it was not until 1992 when the first line of DeWalt portable electric power tools and accessories (designed specifically for residential contractors, remodelers and professional wood workers) first appeared in the company's product lineup, DeWalt has already been supplying industrial tools since 1922.

Based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the company became famous for perfecting the first radial arm saw that for decades continued to set the standard for quality and durability.

"It was the start of the company's long-lasting reputation among professional craftsmen and along with its yellow and black color scheme, DeWalt became a brand set apart from the rest," Allarey said.

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Borgy & Ornusa's Romance
page C4

V boys- page G1
Paul, James,
Enrico, Wesley and Rich

Dreaming of you
Kristine Hermosa
in Davao

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: LILEN UY
Makeup: KAKUYASU UCHIIDE,
Chief makeup artist
of SHU UEMURA
Cover Star: BORGY MANOTOC
& ORNUSSA CADNESS

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Making the most out of the trip is the key to living well.

So forget worrying about tomorrow. Delight in what's now. Think of how you can spend it wisely. Think of how you can make it worthy enough of being a good story for the future. Redeem yourself from the burden of decoding what's next. The now is the next. 'Tis certainly the season to be merry. Happiness is up in the air—and our arms are wide open to welcome the rain.



Imperfectly perfect: By Kakuyasu Uchiide

Shu Uemura International Chief Makeup Artist is back

By Chabs Rubio

IT'S BEEN exactly a year since Shu Uemura International Chief Makeup Artist Kakuyasu Uchiide last landed on our shores, and it was definitely an amazing year for Shu Uemura's CHOSEN ONE.

With the reins of all international work practically relinquished to him by brand founder Mr. Shu Uemura, 2004 was a very hectic year for Uchiide. Selected over 15 years ago to learn the "art of beauty" in accordance with the Shu Uemura brand philosophy, Kakuyasu Uchiide has studiously worked to absorb all of the founder's teachings and, at the same time,

slowly come into his own.

Always conscious of the fact that he is next to lead the Shu Uemura artist team into the future, Uchiide's work so far has always been to share the essence of Shu Uemura in all his work: simple and rich, retro-future, subtle modernity.

After a tour of duty doing makeup shows all over Asia, leading the re-launch of Shu Uemura in the US and the long-awaited launch in China, there is no longer any no doubt that Uchiide is now the technical master of the brand. This was also solidified by his foray into runway makeup in Japan and, more recently, in Shanghai's Spring/Summer 2005 Fashion Week.

No longer just a follower, he is now finally a leader in the movement of elevating the art of makeup into a form of fashion on the face. Always keeping the base philosophy of Shu Uemura in mind, his work now also reflects his evolution. This was most evident in how he led the entire Shu Uemura face design team at the runway shows of Jean Paul Gaultier, Lagerfeld Gallery, Vivienne Tan, Paco Rabanne and Nina Ricci in Shanghai.

In Manila this week, he was tasked to work with couple Borgy Manotoc and Ornusa Cadness to create a look that reflected the intense burning passion surrounding the two. What he came up with was definitely genius.



SHU-PERI team photo taken at Lilen Uy's studio



UCHIIDE paints Ornusa with birds of paradise

MAKEUP BY
KAKUYASU UCHIIDE,
SHU UEMURA INTERNATIONAL
HAIR BY ROBBIE PINERA
FOR SHU UEMURA
ASSISTED BY XENG ZULUETA
OF SHU UEMURA

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Helps burn fat! Green tea is also good for those people trying to lose or maintain their weight. Green tea has a thermogenic effect that produces heat in the body that results in fat burning. It also initiates faster metabolism causing the body to burn fat at a faster rate.

Controls cholesterol! Green tea thins the blood and decreases the possibility of cholesterol formation inside the blood vessels. Instead of absorbing the cholesterol, green tea prompts the body to increase the amount of fat excreted as waste. This reduces the risks on the heart and blood pressure.

Tea-licious!

Unlike some other things that are healthy, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is actually really delicious. People who are used to softdrinks and sweet juices will surely enjoy its light and refreshing taste. It won't be hard to convert to a habit of drinking something healthier and better for you. Even picky children and teenagers may enjoy C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea's yummy taste.

Spa in a Sip

Much like going to the spa, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is both relaxing and recharging. Its delicious taste, especially when served cold, is very refreshing while all the real tea benefits make you feel reinvigorated! So anytime you need to feel both refreshed and recharged, a sip of C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is all you need. It's like experiencing an inner spa.

Tea Take-out

All this goodness is now bottled and ready to be consumed anytime, anywhere. All at a very reasonable price!

C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is available in convenient and resalable plastic PET bottles. It comes in five delicious flavors: Green Tea Plain, Lemon, Apple, Peach and Iced Tea Lemon. The suggested retail price of the 350 ml bottle is only P10, while the bigger 500 ml is only P15.

It's now available at your favorite supermarkets and convenience stores. So grab a chilled bottle of C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea and enjoy a new kind of healthy refreshment.





Young hearts, run free

Tim Yap



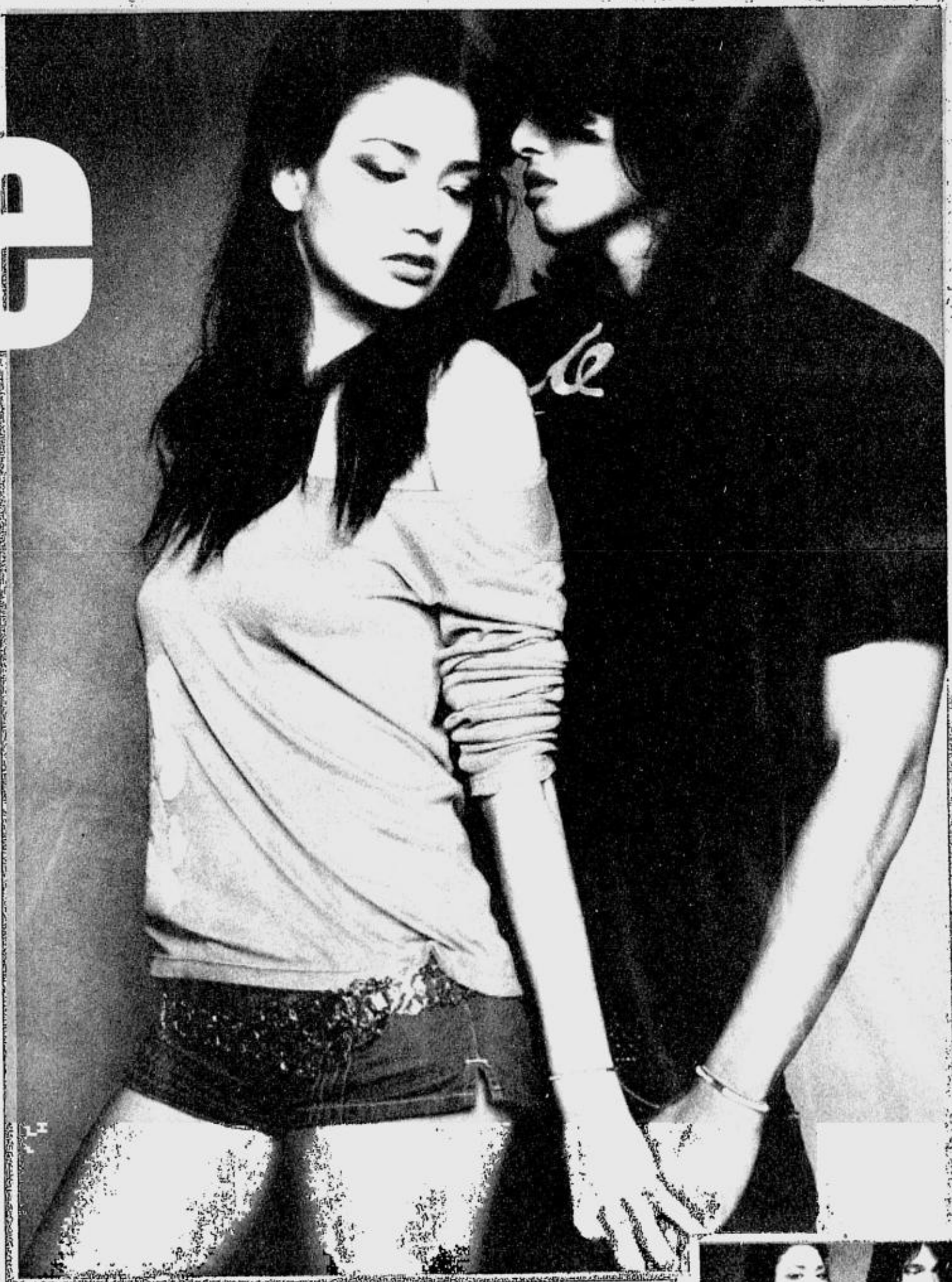
Photos by Lilen Uy

IT'S OUR half-year anniversary," Borgy Manotoc beams as he speaks of his relationship with girlfriend Ornusa Cadness.

The two first met on the beaches of Boracay through this writer one morning at an after party, and they have never parted ways since.

Borgy and Ornusa (Flex, as other party-philes call her) form the ultimate "it" couple. Heads naturally turn once they enter any party venue. Their upbringing dictates them not to care about the stares they get from surrounding eyes, as they flirt, tease each other and cavort with wild abandon. Ah, such is young love.

"Look at my girl—isn't she sexy?" I remem-



ber Borgy pointing at Ornusa as she approached us one night at a Godskitchen party. Ornusa, the party scene's latest "it" chick, just has that innate spunk—a sexiness that exudes from within. I describe it as an "Eastern European meets Japanese soft porn" kind of sexiness. Shu Uemura chief makeup artist Kakuyasu Uchiide thinks Ornusa looks like Japanese supermodel Ai Tominaga.

"Borgy is normally goofy. And we see that in our shoots. This time, there's this certain sensuality that is emanating from Borgy's aura. I think Ornusa is able to bring out that sensuality in him," our photographer Lilen Uy observes behind the scenes.

Watching them oh-so-sweetly pose in front

of the camera, it is refreshing to see two people openly expressing their affection for each other in a world teeming with secret relationships and hidden feelings.

But more than the supermodel looks of this duo, it is really their connection that binds them. Borgy went back to town just for a week to attend to endorsement responsibilities but ended up staying longer (without other people knowing, mind you) to be with "the one."

A day after this Super! shoot, Ornusa got confined in the hospital for appendicitis. Borgy attentively stayed in the hospital, watching over his loved one. "Going out to parties is good, but it feels great when you've found the one," he confesses.



YOUNG/C6

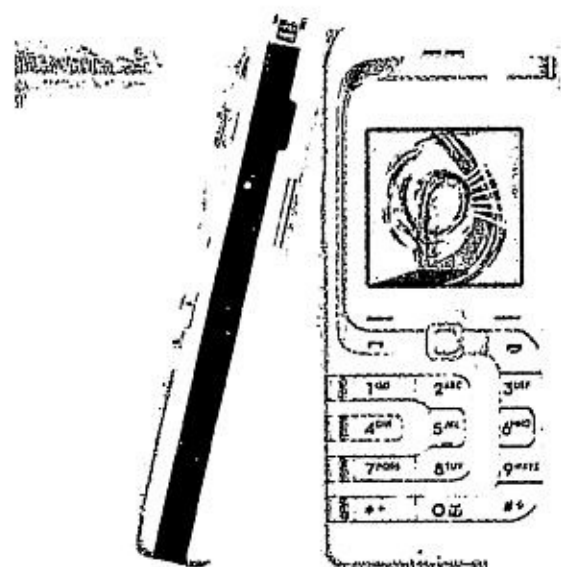
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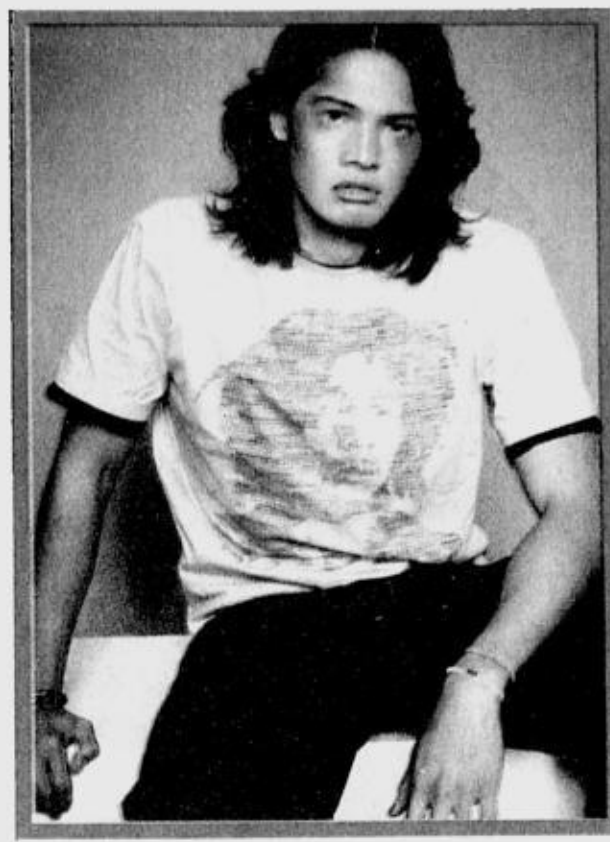
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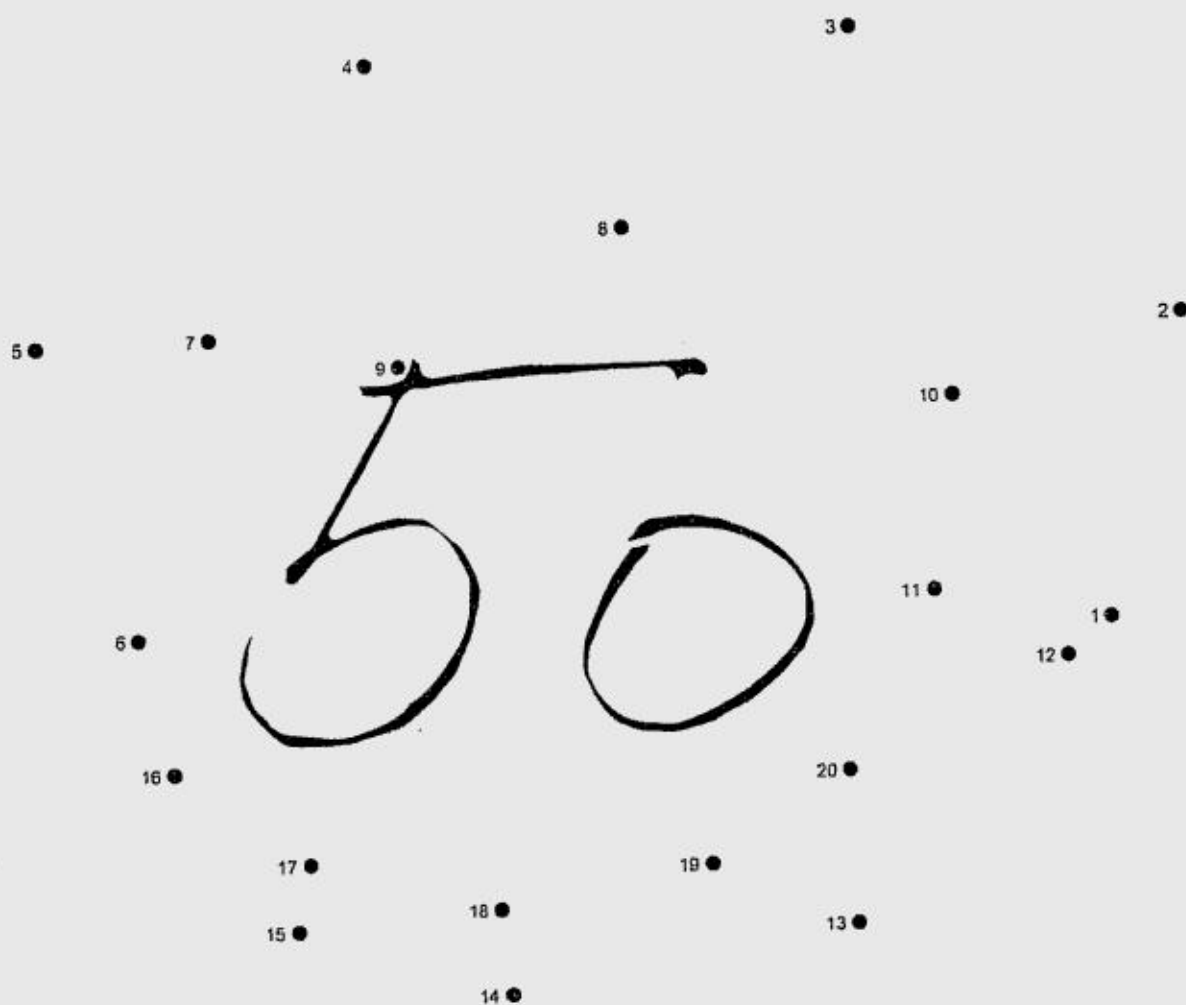


Young hearts, run free



From page C4

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B ORGY Manotoc, Super! generation's resident heart-throb, takes his time out to fill up the Super! guest book. He tackles issues from fame to shame with utmost ease, being born with the proverbial silver spoon (and fork) in his mouth. But what sets him apart is how he takes this further and manages to keep his feet firmly planted on the ground.

The thing about fame is that you really begin to resent answering questions like this.

The thing I love most about what I do is the opportunity to meet and interact with so many talented people.

People might be surprised to know that I love to cook, and recently put together a serious Thanksgiving dinner for a few friends.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that there is no such thing as wrong or right, everything is subjective to individual perception.

I wish when I started off I'd been told that this industry may be my life's passion for some time, then maybe I would have taken things more seriously, haha. This business can tear people's moral fiber to shreds. The only way to survive is to understand that your superficial worth will always be determined by others.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was... I've never really had a bad experience in this business because things are so impulsive and spontaneous that you learn to expect anything.

And what this taught me was traveling, allowing yourself to be tested in an environment that is foreign to you.

The secret to happiness is the acceptance of human imperfection.

My best-ever outfit consisted of nothing, one is only truly beautiful when shed down to our most vulnerable form.

My Super! Saturday night consists of... if I had no obligations, a good book or album and a nice bottle of white wine.

The soundtrack to my life would include the entire Instant Vintage album by Raphael Saadiq.

If I were invisible for a day, I wouldn't shower.

The thing that makes me most angry is ignorance; the root of judgmental thought.

If I were the most powerful person on earth, I would quit.

Or if I'm not that powerful, I would focus on the aspects of people's lives that I can affect the most and strive to change people's lives in a way that they could not have done themselves.

If money was no option, then my life would be no different, value is not determined by monetary worth.

When I retire, I would like to travel to every country I have yet to visit.

The world would be a much better place if Bush wasn't elected president.

My hero is my mother.

The things that make my life worth living are my family and those I love.

My greatest hope for the future is this country.

The worst thing somebody said about me was that I have no aspirations or goals.

My favorite moments are when I make my 5-month-old nephew laugh and drool all over himself.

My most embarrassing moment was when he made me laugh and drool all over myself.

I aspire to be real.

YOUNG/C7





Young hearts, run free

From page C6

ORNUSSA. Yes, say it again. The name itself connotes an exotic mix of innocence and sexuality. It just rolls down your tongue like a newfound addiction.

With her bangs down, she resembles a sexy Go-Go, that Japanese girl armed with a dangerous ball in "Kill Bill." Her mix of Thai and European lineage spells exotic. At Super!'s first year anniversary, she wore this one piece lingerie that sent ripples among the audience. When she turned her back—lo and behold! Shockwaves with intensities stronger than Typhoon "Yoyong" struck out into the crowd. That's how powerful Ornussa's presence is—she makes waves even when her back is turned.

The thing about fame is that... I wouldn't know much about fame... ask Borgy. Hahaha.

The thing I love most about what I do is... nothing yet, I'm still in school. I've yet to achieve being able to do what I love.

People might be surprised to know that I'm not that smart.. surprise!

The most important thing I've ever learned is that life really isn't fair. So cliché, but...

I wish when I started off I'd been told to... I actually don't wish anything. I was told and warned in the beginning, so I knew exactly what to expect: nothing. Expectations only lead to disappointment.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that... Nothing really, I don't like to think that the worst of things happen to me. But typically, if I had to choose, it would probably be being misunderstood, stereotyped and the usual trash talk and gossip. Stuff that happens EVERYDAY to EVERYBODY.

And what taught this to me was that the secret to happiness is doing what makes you happy. Haha.

My best-ever outfit consisted of a tan
My Super! Saturday night consists of friends and booze

The soundtrack to my life would include 10,000 different songs. I'm moody.

If I were invisible for a day, I would not have to fix my hair.

The thing that makes me most angry is a mess.

If I were the most powerful person on earth, I'd probably be really rich, too.

Or, if I'm not that powerful, then I wouldn't be the most powerful person on earth?

The best thing about family is that they let me do pretty much whatever I want.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say either a lot or nothing.

If money was no option I'd have less to worry about.

When I retire, I would like to be rich enough to do so.

He world would be a much better place if everyone was like me. Kidding.

My hero is GOD

The thing that makes my life worth living is love, of course.

My greatest hope for the future is a better future.

The worst thing somebody said about me was "I don't care." I make sure to block it out of my memory.

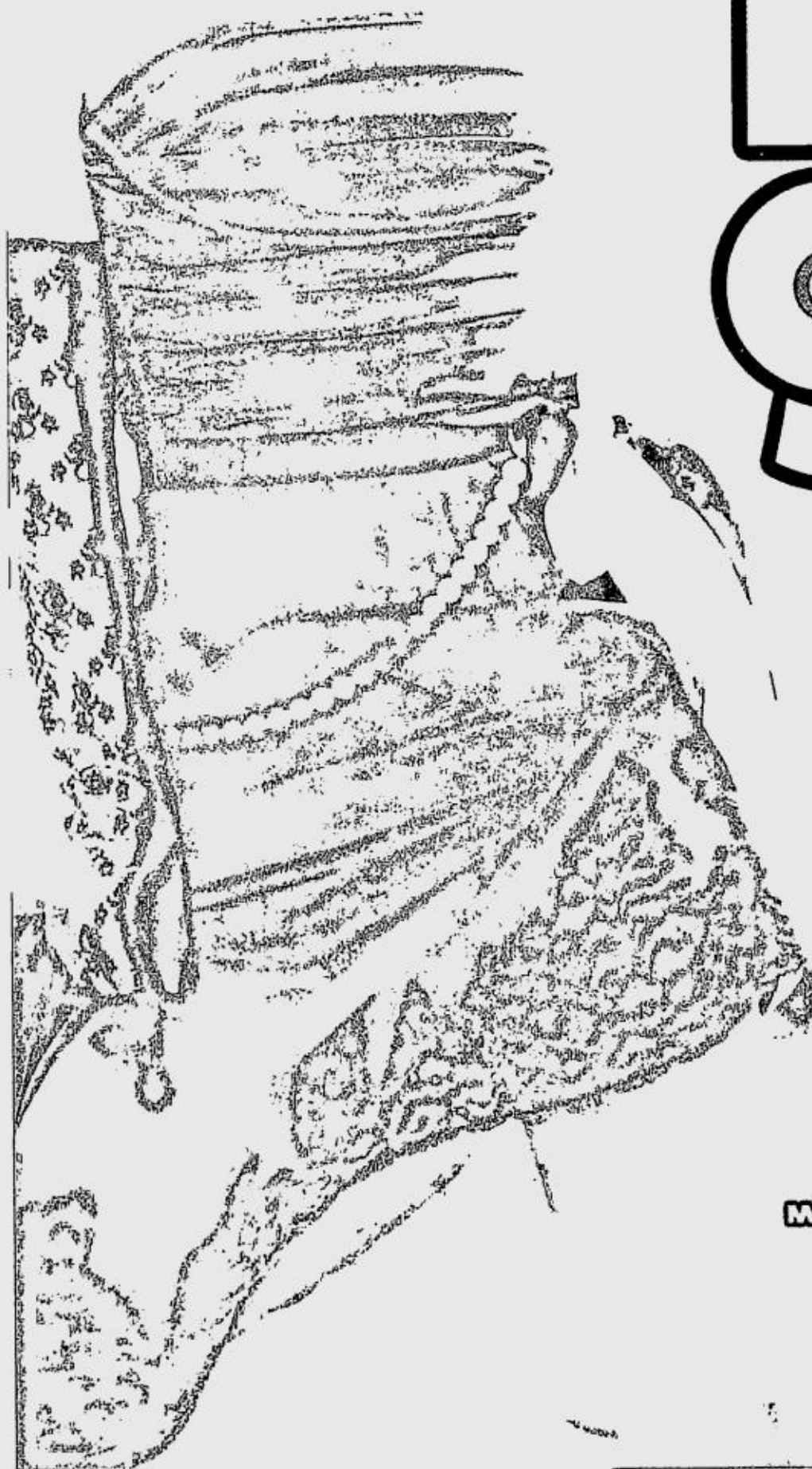
My favorite moments are when I'm sleeping or eating.

My most embarrassing moment was when... too many to mention.

I aspire to be myself.

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it girl

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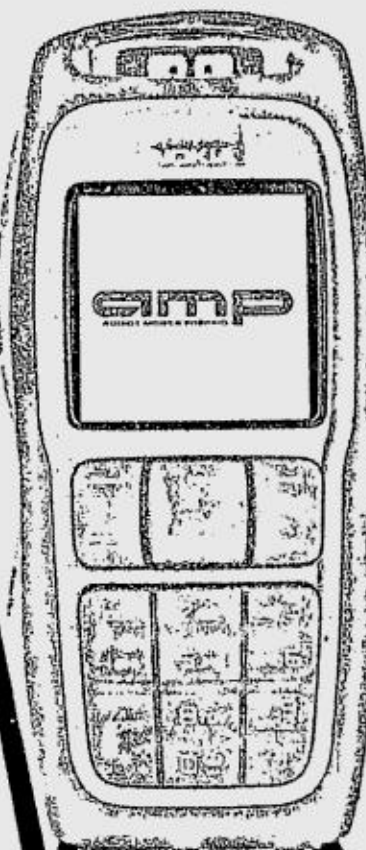
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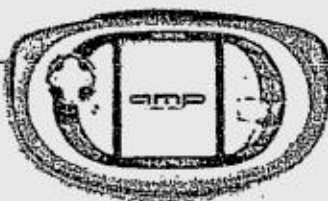
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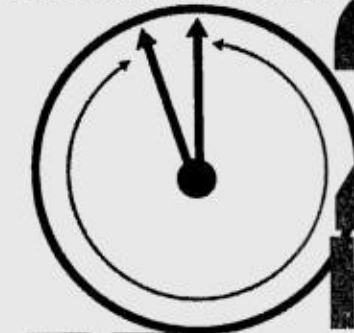
addict
MOBILE

Super 2



10:54 a.m. The start of many TV interviews. Among some of the questions asked was about their take on online music piracy. "We see the Internet as a tool, and it's changing every industry," Taylor said. "Because of it, musicians and record companies are forced to come out with better-quality music." The Wazzup! Wazzup! taping had the boys poking fun at the host, who wore a blue wig.

LESS THAN



24
HOURS

with

Hanson

Text and photos by Maui V. Reyes

NOT EVERY band finds it easy to shed their teenybopper image—boy bands have yet to win the praise of most respected musicians, and Britney Spears has never managed to bring home a Grammy. Ironically enough, one of the bands that sparked the pop craze in the mid-'90s has managed to not only have critics fawn over their records, but musicians never seem to hesitate to collaborate with them.

Hanson—made up of three Tulsa, Oklahoma, brothers—were making music before they were even in middle school. Inspired by their parents' old records (think late '50s, early '60s rock and roll), the brothers formed a band that echoed Motown beats, fused with

their smooth vocal harmonies. They released two independent records before the smash single "Mmmmbop" soared on every music chart in 1997. Their debut album, "Middle of Nowhere," was followed by the toe-tapping, deliciously old-school pop rock record, "This Time Around."

There are a lot of reasons why Hanson managed to avoid being on VH1's Behind the Music. For one, they never let trends dictate their music. While everyone was doing bubblegum pop, they stuck with what they knew best—good ol' rock and roll. Then there was that desire to do things their—and not any record company's—way: their latest release, "Underneath," was released under their own record label, 3CG. Well-respected musicians are giving the band the props that they deserve... Matthew Sweet, Gregg Alexander and Michelle Branch lent their talents to the record.

After two failed attempts to come play a show in the Philippines, Hanson finally came

24 HOURS/D2

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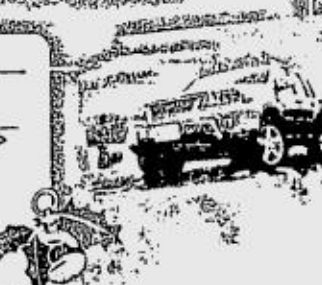
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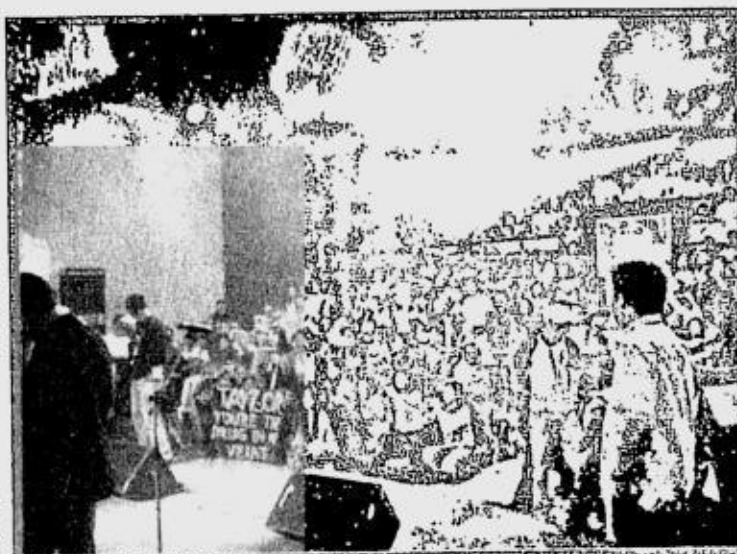
12:10 p.m. Taylor gets a quick retouch before another taping.



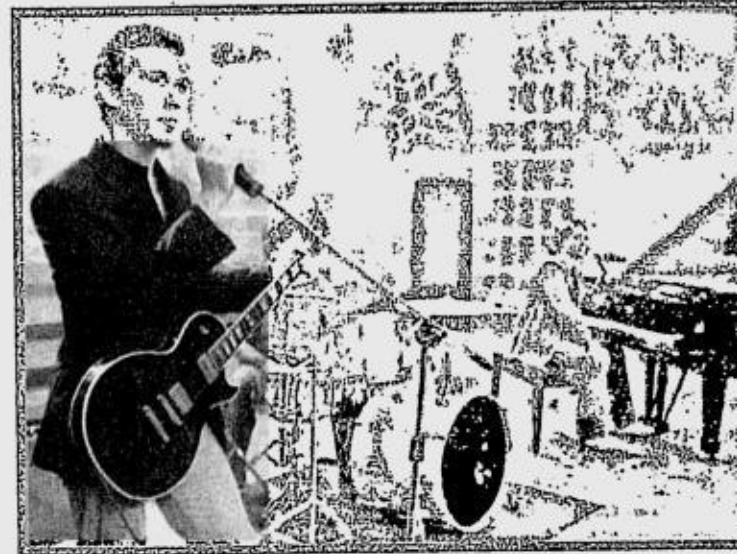
12:30 p.m. It's time to shuffle to the MTB studio for a live taping. They'll be performing with the album playing in the background, for a hassle-free performance.



12:40 p.m. In the dressing room, their manager tells the band that I'm sticking around to get some quotes. "Use this: Don't Suck," Zac says. Machine briefs them about how the MTB performance will go. "Can you tell them to drop the 'the'? We're Hanson, not 'The' Hanson," Isaac says.



12:50 p.m. MTB taping. Fans start to get unruly, prompting the stage manager to scream at them to behave.



12:52 p.m. Hanson gets ready to rock.



1:05 p.m. It's time for a short radio interview, and before they go on air, the host asks them if they know any Tagalog words. The band struggles over how to pronounce "aliw." Isaac shares that they've always wanted to come to the Philippines, and Zac says it's always amazing to come and see fans from all over the world.

LESS THAN 24 HOURS with Hanson

From page D1

over on Nov. 30 for a concert at the Aliw Theater. Being a huge fan of theirs since their debut album, I jumped at the chance to spend the day with them (INQUIRER was a sponsor).

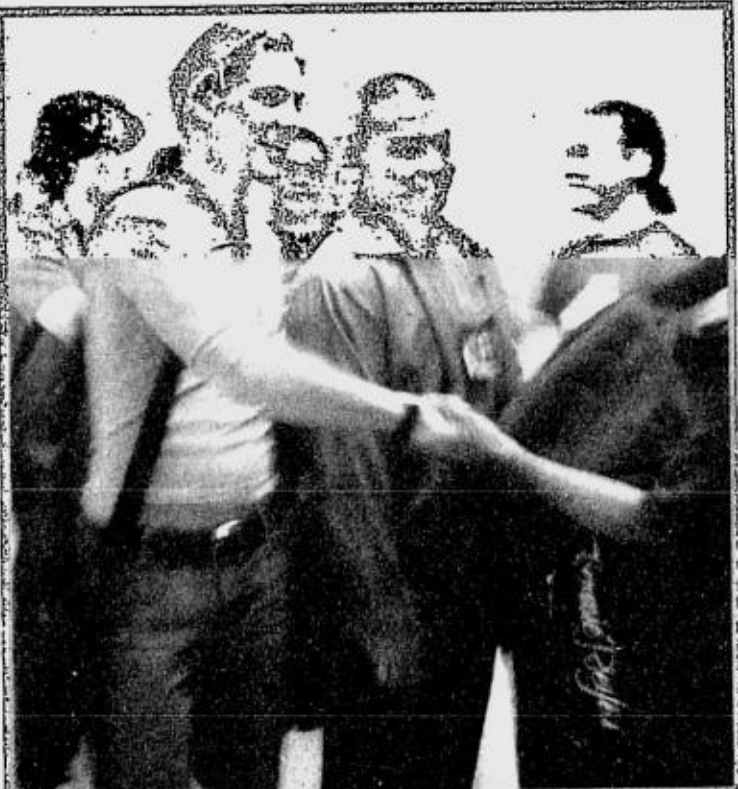
Their itinerary consisted of numerous interviews on several ABS-CBN shows. I was formally introduced to them in their dressing room in between tapings, and I was pleased to find out that they were pretty down-to-earth. Lunch followed, and Taylor, Isaac and I discussed the importance of networking in the music industry, Paris Hilton, and the power of the media.

Last on their itinerary before the concert was a sound check at the venue. One of them complained about the absence of a back entrance to the theater, since they were going to have to walk through the throngs of fans waiting at the front gates. Isaac wanted to have his head shaved, and I asked their manager, Machine, if I could take a picture. He said a "before" and "after" shot would be okay, and Isaac agreed. I snapped one photo. "You

wouldn't want her to take a photo of you," Zac said from behind me. Isaac assured him it was no big deal. I was about to take another picture when Zac covered my camera lens. I pushed his hand away, thinking he was just joking. If he was, his humor was pretty twisted—he then grabbed my arm and shoved me. Hard.

The only Filipino who was present in the room was another bodyguard, who laughed nervously and motioned for me to come with him outside the dressing room. Machine was just laughing. Zac was smiling. I left the room and quickly called up my editor to tell her about the incident. About 10 minutes later, Zac came up to me, still smiling, and apologized. "I only did it because I told you not to take the picture and you still did," he said. I told him I had the consent of his brother and manager, and it wasn't him I was taking a photo of. He shrugged, apologized again, and went back into his dressing room.

I decided to leave, and headed back to the dressing room to get my things. Taylor, Zac and Machine ignored me as I said good-



1:15 p.m. On the way to the restaurant for a late lunch, guest musicians on MTB greet the band in the hallway. Taylor shakes their hands.

bye to the other people in the room. I grabbed my bag, hailed a taxi and went home.

I wish I could have written about a more pleasant experience with Hanson. I have done nothing but support their music for the past seven years—and I would like to think that it's people like me, the FANS, who are one of the reasons why they're still around making music. I understand that Zac is just human, probably tired from all the traveling they've been doing, but shoving a journalist—much more a girl—is uncalled for.

I tried to rack up reasons why he did it. Was it because I was young? He was three years younger than me. Was it because

I looked like a fan? I was professional the entire time. Was it because I was Asian? I'd like to believe that he wasn't that shallow.

Never in my six years of being a journalist have I been treated with so much disrespect.

I left the place feeling awful that my only experience with a band whose music I've loved and listened to for so long was not only disappointing, but appalling as well. I am still a huge fan of their craft. But I have lost respect for the people behind the albums.

Many thanks to Rostyn Reyes and Wally Chamsay of Sony Music Philippines, and Benj from ALV Productions.



1:30 p.m. Isaac slurps down his dalandan shake. He's pretty happy about his move to New York with Zac. "We needed to move for 3CG. Although we still have our office in Oklahoma, we needed to establish one in New York," he says.



1:40 p.m. Taylor shares that his wife, Natalie, is actually his high school sweetheart. He also talks about MOE, the band's official fan club magazine, which ran for three years. "We wrote about other bands whom we liked, so the fans would go check them out, too. We're big supporters of the independent music scene," he says.



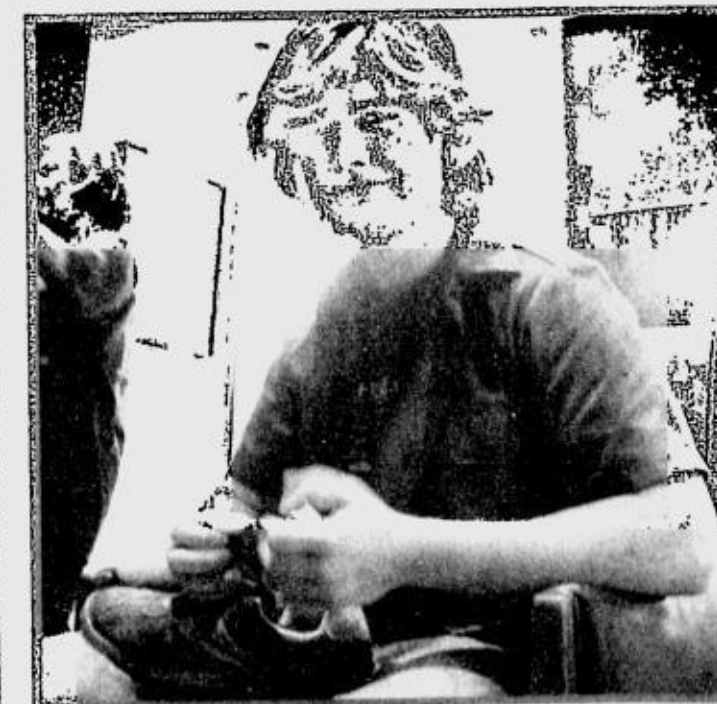
True-blue Hanson fans know this ring. It's the same ring a fan gave them years ago, which has the Hanson logo on it.



5:24 p.m. Isaac has been planning to have his head shaved all day, and finally gets to do it backstage.



Taylor picks up a pair of size-10 white sneaks.



1:57 p.m. The band tries on Skechers shoes for the show. Zac's pretty happy with the first pair he tried on, a navy blue number.

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Liquid dreams in Davao

Text and photos by Tim Yap

SOMETHING not so funny happened on the way to Davao. We had planned to fly off to the city of durian and suha and party the night away last Saturday for the re-launch of legendary nightspot Liquid. We had it all thought out—until something happened. To cut the long story short, we missed our flight.

As we hurriedly ran to the counter (even if it said, counter closed), we were still hoping against hope that we would be able to make it. That was Cebu Pacific's last flight out to Davao, and all other flights had already boarded their passengers and were ready to leave. "It (the thought) hasn't sunk in," said my Davao dive mate Tina Pamintuan as we checked each

LIQUID/EZ



K HALL Kristine Hermosa with Juliet and Tracy Pamintuan



LIQUID LUST Tracy and Tina Pamintuan with Bianca Valerio and Bianca Gonzalez



PEARL OF THE ORIENT Juan Rock, Pearl Pamintuan with Tina Pamintuan



DELICIOUSLY DAVAO Juliet and Tina Pamintuan



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Liquid dreams in Davao



WAZZUP! Glimpse
of Kristine Hermosa
in a white swimsuit.



LIQUID LOVE
Chicho Suarez
and GF Kays



DADDY GROOVY
Chicho Suarez
and GF Kays



SOUTH PACIFIC
Martin and Michelle
in weekend party mode

From page E1

counter for two more seats headed down to Davao with the perseverance of Sisa looking for her two sons Crispin and Basilio.

"What if we head over to Cebu and take a boat from there? How about a yacht? A chopper? (after a few seconds) Let's charter a plane!" When we learned the price of chartering a plane (we said charter, not BUY the plane), we realized we were doomed to stay the Saturday in Manila and dream of a Davao weekend. Add to that, Tina's luggage got accidentally shipped to Cebu without her. (my fault!) Meanwhile, our other cohorts took the earlier flight and were happily shopping for accessories with Kristine Hermosa (who, according to our friends was super mobbed everywhere she went)—without Diet in tow.

Later that night, there was another mob. Nope, it was not to get a glimpse of Kristine (though I'm sure they savored the sight of her—who wouldn't?). "The lines were long and reached around the block," said Bianca Valerio, top model and tv personality who partied the night away with boyfriend Mikee Carrion, himself a top mannequin. Yup, everyone got wet in Liquid that night. And that has been the case for Davao for the past few years now.

Intoxicating liquid

Scene royalty Tommy and Juliet Pamintuan, through their Liquid hot spot, have been at the forefront of the Davao nightscape all these years, quenching Davao's thirst for nocturnal nostalgia. Mixing its ice-cold interiors with the warmth of people used to the heat of the sun, Liquid has become the bar de rigueur down south. The Apo View Hotel lobby on weekends is packed with Davao's young sceneries—bright, young things out to savor Liquid's salivating concoction of beautiful people and intoxicating music.

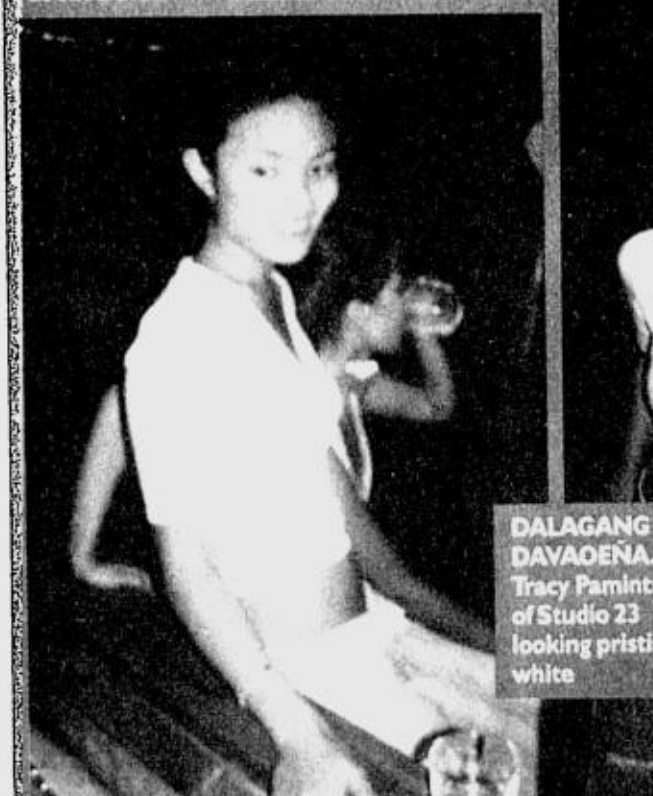
I stayed sober in Manila to make sure I won't miss my 4:30 a.m. flight. I must commend Cebu Pacific for always being on time, so right before Sunday sunrise, I was able to reach Davao, hoping to get a glimpse of Kristine Hermosa on the beaches of Pearl Farm.

Later I realized that Kristine was nowhere in sight. She had flown in only to check out the scene at Liquid. She had no intentions (nor time) to join us at the beach. Anyways, to make up for lost time, I slept through the whole day and woke up at night (my beach routine) where I made newfound friends—namely Juan Roca, the very amiable general manager of the resort. We bonded over U2 songs and Ibiza, his hometown.

The next day we all hopped from one shopping place to another, just in time to catch our flight (we didn't want to miss our flights again, you know). As these photos will show, Davao dreaming starts and ends from Liquid—the bar; to liquid—the waters of Pearl Farm.



SODA EVE
Bianca Gonzales
waxes
philosophical
about Davao



DALAGANG
DAVAOENA
Tracy Pamintuan
of Studio 23
looking pristine in white



TINA TASTE
Tina Pamintuan
with date Pearl V.

CRUISE CONTROL
Our group getting
a taste of the Pearl
Farm sunshine



GIRL POWER
Chicho Suarez
and GF Kays



MIKEE'S
GF



LIQUID'S LAIR
Martin and Michelle
in weekend party
mode



JULIET of the
Davao seas

FANNY Blanco of Venture 7 is inviting everyone to come to their last bazaar at the Hotel Intercon on Sunday Dec. 5, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. It is your best chance to buy your Christmas gifts at bargain prices. There are so many items to choose from coming from Thailand, India, China, US and Europe.



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Love and mirage

Dear Man About Town,
I've been dating my boyfriend for three years already, and I feel that he is the man that I want to marry. He treats me very well, we both have steady jobs, we hardly fight, we have a lot in common (we even go shopping together), our parents approve of our relationship, and my friends love him. Everything is perfect. Well, almost perfect. Even though we are very happy together, he has never discussed marriage

the cusp of Saturn and humping Venus or some other crap like that. Dump him.

He is uncertain of you. Painful to digest, but something to consider. It may be that the man is just not sure he sees your figurine on LOVE/F3

MUCH "I do" about knotting

MAITA PONCE

Man about town



Chuck Dy

with me. When I try to hint at the subject, he shies away from the topic. I understand it is a big step, and I don't want to scare him away, but what if I'm just wasting all this time with somebody who may never marry me? Are men really afraid of marriage?

A GIRLFRIEND once brought up the subject of marriage while I was watching CNN and she was in the kitchen chopping onions. I deflected the topic by mentioning the atrocities in the Gaza Strip. She responded by observing how sharp her Black & Decker knife was. I pointed out that a credible peace treaty between the Israelis and Palestinians negotiating a shared territory was next to impossible. She noted how effortlessly the blade circumscribed, I mean circumvented, the spine of the onion without damaging the outer skin. To this day, there is no peace in Gaza. And onions still make me cry.

These analogies are insufficient and crude, I admit. Marriage is so much more than just common space or layered vegetables, although rough similarities can be drawn from both of these. Then again, the union of two people (heterosexual, as of this writing) in state- and church-sanctioned matrimony can be compared to a slew of other metaphors ranging from the sublime to the infernal, depending on the current density of the wedding ring.

The male of the species, stereotypically, has been portrayed as the one who is usually afraid to commit on paper. Let's review several of the most common reasons a man is wary of sharing his last name with a woman.

He is scared of the concept. And who can blame him? The current mortality rate of marriage is so high, jet liners have been spotted in its vicinity. Given the reality that divorce is not an option in the Philippines, most couples should consider marriage thoroughly before exchanging vows. It's a fatalistic perspective, but when everybody knows at least one married couple that has called it quits, it gives you pause for thought. That whole "until death do us part" bit, while incredibly regal especially when declared in front of a congregation of friends and family, begins to sound more like a morbid obligation after a few years of fighting over toilet seat etiquette.

He is scared of the commitment. Closely related to the first reason, but less a conceptual phobia and more a personal distaste for a change in his current lifestyle, a man predicts that the shift may be too seismic for him to bear. He knows that as soon as that ring is in place, he may have to change more than just his underwear. He's thinking of all the beer he's not going to drink, the women he is not going to date, the guys' night-outs he will miss, and the intestinal gas he is not going to fart, all because married guys don't get to do that anymore. (Later on, they will realize that they CAN do all those, but they will have joined the ranks of the socially despised Bad Husbands Club.)

And do you know why he is so scared of commitment? Because he does not want to be a bad husband. He wants to be an exemplary spouse, a model partner, the patron saint of modern marriage. He wants to provide for his new family. He wants his mother-in-law's approval. He wants to be able to look at all his single, wanton, drunken buddies and tell them to go on without him because he's going home to sleep with his wife. But men are all too aware that we do not always get what we want—or else every man in the world would be hefting a huge bank account and a comparable erection.

He is uncertain of the timing. Maybe he's considering his current financial status. Even with both of you pulling in steady paychecks, he may be rightfully analyzing how on earth he is going to provide ("Til debt do us part, right?). Maybe his gut instinct tells him to wait another year. Maybe his brother is getting hitched soon and it is taboo in his family to discuss consecutive weddings. Maybe his horoscope informs him that it would be auspicious if the Age of Aquarius were mounted on

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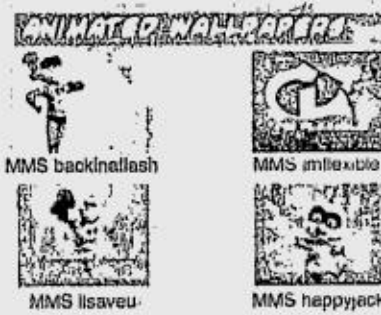
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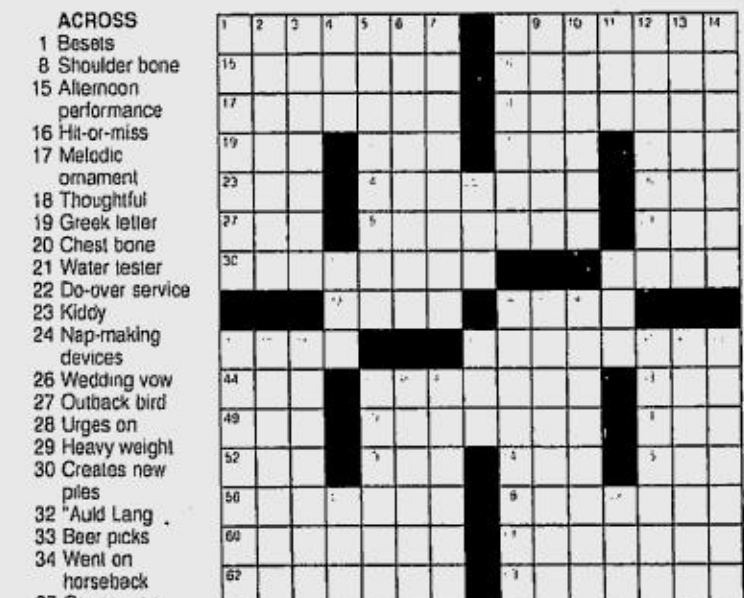
HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are courageous, gutsy and highly individualistic. You won't back down. Struggle is something you've encountered. (You're not afraid to face overwhelming odds.) You are quick to size people up; you know how to deal with the real world. As a humanitarian, you often work for ideal causes.

Birthdate of: Tyra Banks, actress/model; Jeff Bridges, actor; Marisa Tomei, actress.

- ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** This is a wonderful day to sign up for a course or explore advanced education in any way. You're eager to expand your horizons! In particular, you would love to learn more about the world.
- GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You truly enjoy the company of others today. Get out and schmooze! Discussions with others make you feel more worldly and alive. They increase your confidence.
- LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** This is a wonderful day for love affairs and romance. It's also a lovely time to work with children. Whatever you do will give you pleasure today.
- TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Someone might be very generous to you today. In some way, the resources of others will definitely benefit you now. At the very least, someone will do you a favor.
- CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Your positive attitude at work attracts good situations to you today. (Enthusiasm is always a contagious thing.) Your vibes are positive, and others want to be in your company.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Discussions with parents are warm and positive today. In fact, everything to do with your home, your domestic life and your family will be enjoyable.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** This is a good day to be with friends. Talk to others, because you want to be included in something larger than yourself now. All discussions are particularly harmonious and upbeat.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** This is an excellent day for business and commerce. You're willing to spend money to make money. Whatever you do can probably boost your income in some way.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** You can work harmoniously with others today. In part, this is because you see that your interaction with others actually benefits you now.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you today. You're beginning to see how all the parts fit together to make the whole.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** This is a good day to reflect upon your life and examine your goals. Discuss your dreams for the future with others. See what their feedback is.
- PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Your relationship with VIPs, parents, teachers and authority figures is excellent today. It's easy to go along with what is expected of you. You actually agree with your boss.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward Seranton, PA

12/4/04

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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MIKROKOSMOS

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KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Love and mirage

From page F1

top of his wedding cake. You have been dating for three, happy years, yet duration is not a guaranteed indicator of certainty or compatibility. The status of girlfriend and the status of wife is not a to-MA-toe, to-MAH-toe thing; the axioms of matrimony rely on a different plane of physics than that of high school sweethearts. Just because he loves you doesn't mean he is sure he wants to wake up beside you 50 years from now.

He is gay. Do you know what a "beard" is? It's a social disguise such as a public girlfriend some closeted men use to keep their homosexuality a secret. Your boyfriend does not sound gay (although he does go shopping with you... interesting), but I would check for Barbra Streisand albums in his music collection. Just in case.

He is already married and you don't know. Grab balls with one hand, twist, and pull away from the man.

If this article's direction appears pessimistic, it is only because I am discussing the possible reasons a man may hedge at the thought of matrimony. Marriage is supposed to be tough. Like anything good worth having and keeping in life, a successful marriage can be quite rare.

But marriage is a positive thing, one of the most beautiful abstractions ever conceived by our flawed humanity. If it is less than perfect in the execution, it is because we are human before and after the ceremony. But the concept of marriage itself is pure. Many people nowadays—many couples, in fact—are against the institution, citing the tendency of official relationships to atrophy under the pressure of social expectation. But consider all the successful unions that have happened, the Love Boats that

have weathered the inevitable storms of a conjugal cruise. That's some good ship.

There are a thousand other reasons a person, whether male or female, may shy away from the marital option. But there is only one good reason couples do get married: BECAUSE IT MAKES THEM HAPPY. Because they love each other, because it's what they both want, because there is satisfaction generated by the simple act of smiling at each other from across the breakfast table.

So when you sit down with your boyfriend and bring up the subject of marriage (and you will have to at one point), the focal point of your future should revolve around that intrinsic question: will this make you both happy? There is no way of ensuring whether you are "wasting your time" but, hopefully, through honest communication, you'll both be able to comprehend, with a little more clarity, the options available to both of you. Don't rush it and don't push too hard. A man does not want to feel like he has been pressured into a confrontation. And whatever you do, think very carefully before giving him an ultimatum. Especially when you're chopping onions with a sharp blade.

I'd like to get married one day. I'd like a wife and children whom I can love and nurture, and reciprocally, I'd like to be loved and nurtured by them, living together harmoniously in a big house with no knives. I'd also like peace in the Middle East, and \$25 million in the bank, and a car that provided speech therapy like K.I.T.T. in *Knight Rider*. One day, it will all be mine. One day.

E-mail the author at bohemi-ansamurai@yahoo.com



WINNING CAPTION: "Sabi ng nanay ko, pang-Miss Earth din beauty ko!"
Che Marpuri of Balanga, Bataan

Oh caption, my caption!

Text by Chabs Rubio

SUPER! readers, you are a hoot. The captions you flooded our inboxes with brightened up our typhoon-plagued night. Funny, funny, funny. When you get tired of your day job, consider a career in comedy.

And this week's caption trophy goes to Che Marpuri of Balanga, Bataan.

Please call Ching at 897-8808 for your prize.

Here are other captions that had us slapping our knees:

"ERRATUM: The person who appears below was not part of the picture. Our sincerest apologies."

—Cathy Uy of Quezon City

"KEN-koy in Barbieland..."

—Ryan Sebastian of Naic, Cavite

"Frontmost candidate was disqualified for not wearing a sash."

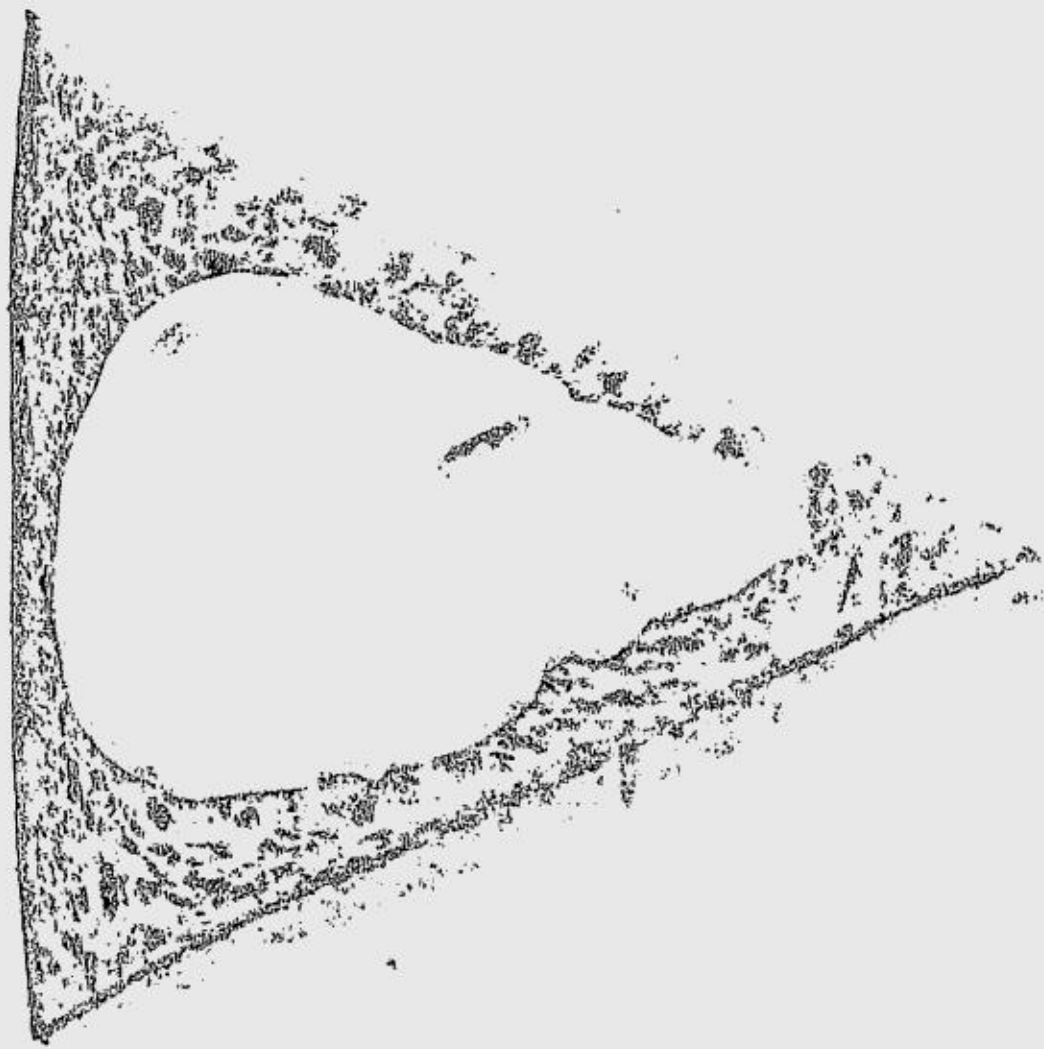
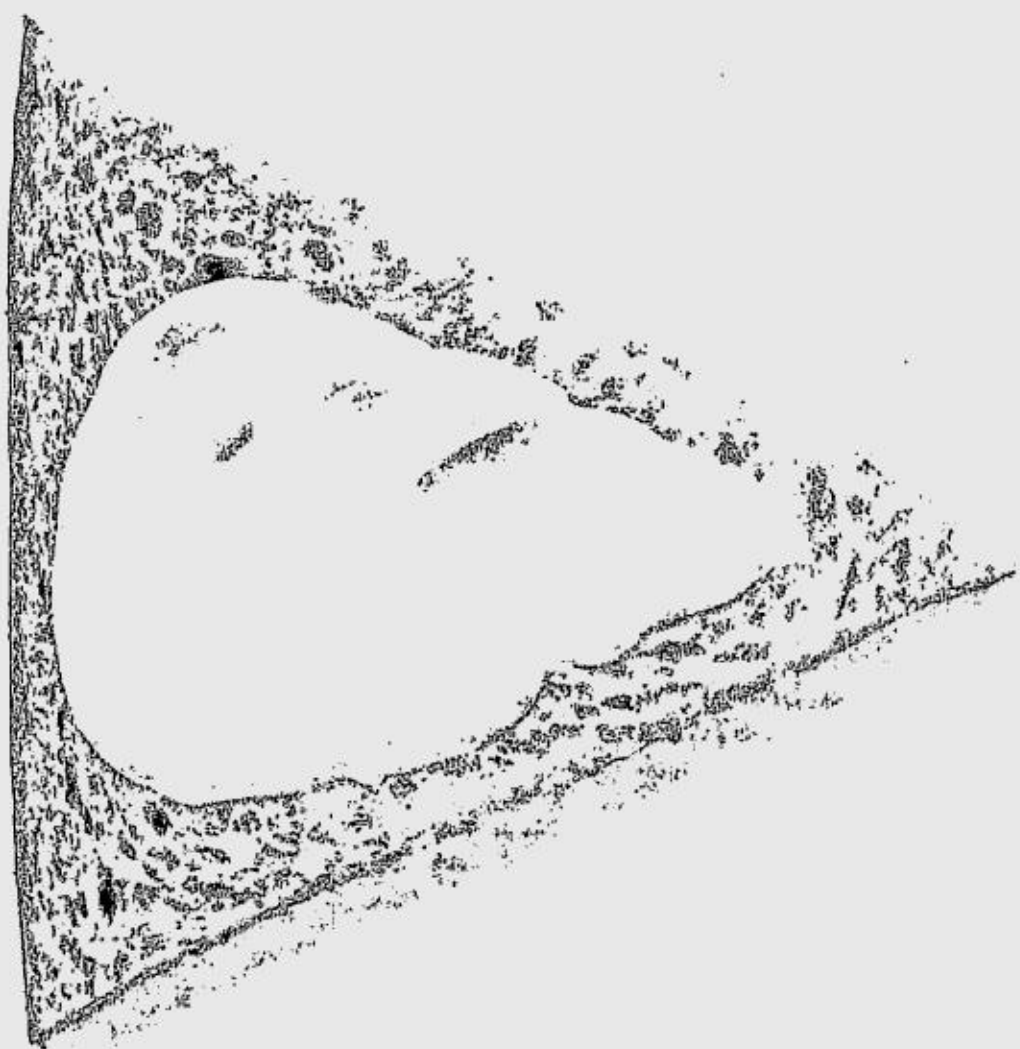
—Orville Ocampo



CAPTION:
"I saw Daddy humping Santa Claus..."

This Week's Challenge

Because Christmas is hurtling towards us faster than you can imagine, here's a holiday-inspired photo that is just begging for a caption. What's Manong doing? Is he teaching Santa Claus how to ocho-ocho? Is he trying to steal Santa's list? Something tells me that we don't know... or maybe we do. And we'd love for you to tell us. Get those wheels turning, start churning those captions out and send them over to us at super@inquirer.com.ph or text inquirer super name/city/caption and send to 2207 for Globe or 283 for Smart. We'll be waiting!



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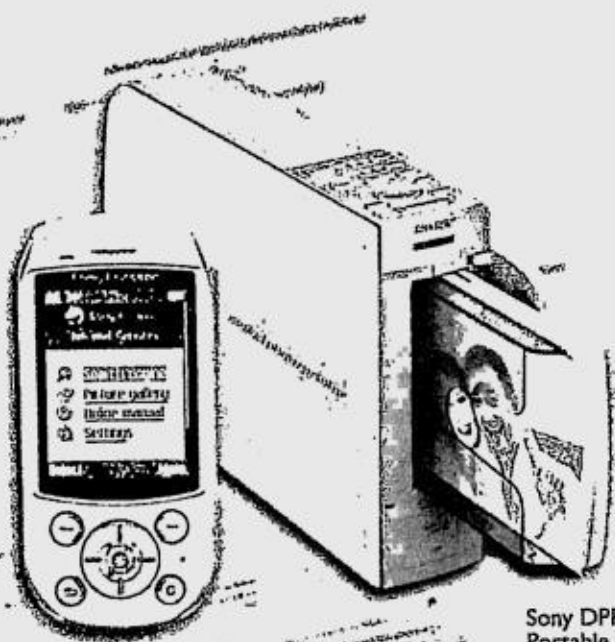
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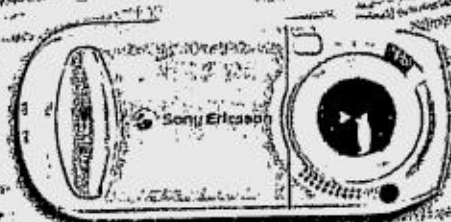
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pop culture • entertainment • recreation

V BOYS

By Tim Yap
Photos by Mark Nicdao
Makeup by Xeng Zulueta

Paul Artadi

Height: 5'10"
My advantage over others is my quickness inside the court.
I love what I do because I feel complete when I play the game.
People don't know that I am a God-fearing person. I'm looking forward to winning a championship trophy.
My life outside the court is like rest/relaxation.
This Christmas, I want to give my loved ones the best gift I can give.

WHAT do shaving and playing basketball have in common?" I ask my buddy in a Confucius-like tone.

After some deep thought, he answered: "Shaving requires precision. The closer the shave, the greater the satisfaction. Basketball also requires precision. A team's concerted effort, brought about by hard-striving players, results in better play—and greater audience satisfaction."

"Three-point shot!" I thought to myself, as I started to stroke my mustache, in dire need of a smooth shave.

"In effect, basketball's individual players are like the individual blades of a good shaver—when they come together in perfect unison, they create a close shaving of points from the opposing team, in turn earning more points and imminent success for their own team," he ended with a wink and a basketball toss.

"I want what you're having!" I threw a towel at my friend, who is either on a post-game high, or who is, unbeknownst to me, a basketball historian from the era of Toyota and Crispa.

But we don't have to look that far to spot precision moves in the Pinoy's favorite pastime. This generation has got pretty big balls, too (on the basketball court, I mean).

When I say hard court players, I mean men who play ball seriously. Five dribblers who are shooting their way into mass consciousness faster than you can say Alvin Patrimonio and Jojo Lastimosa (my respects to the basketball gods of my childhood), they are also endorsing Gillette Vector, a twin-blade shaving system noted for its pivoting head—Gillette's entry-level shaver. (Think D&G, A/X, et al.)

The Gillette Vector First Five, as they are called—Paul Artadi, Wesley Gonzales, James Yap, Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez—have all grown up before our eyes as young rookies in the college courts of the UAAP. Now moving on to the hardball of the PBA arena, these young and already multi-awarded athletes soar to greater heights (pun).

VBOYS/GZ



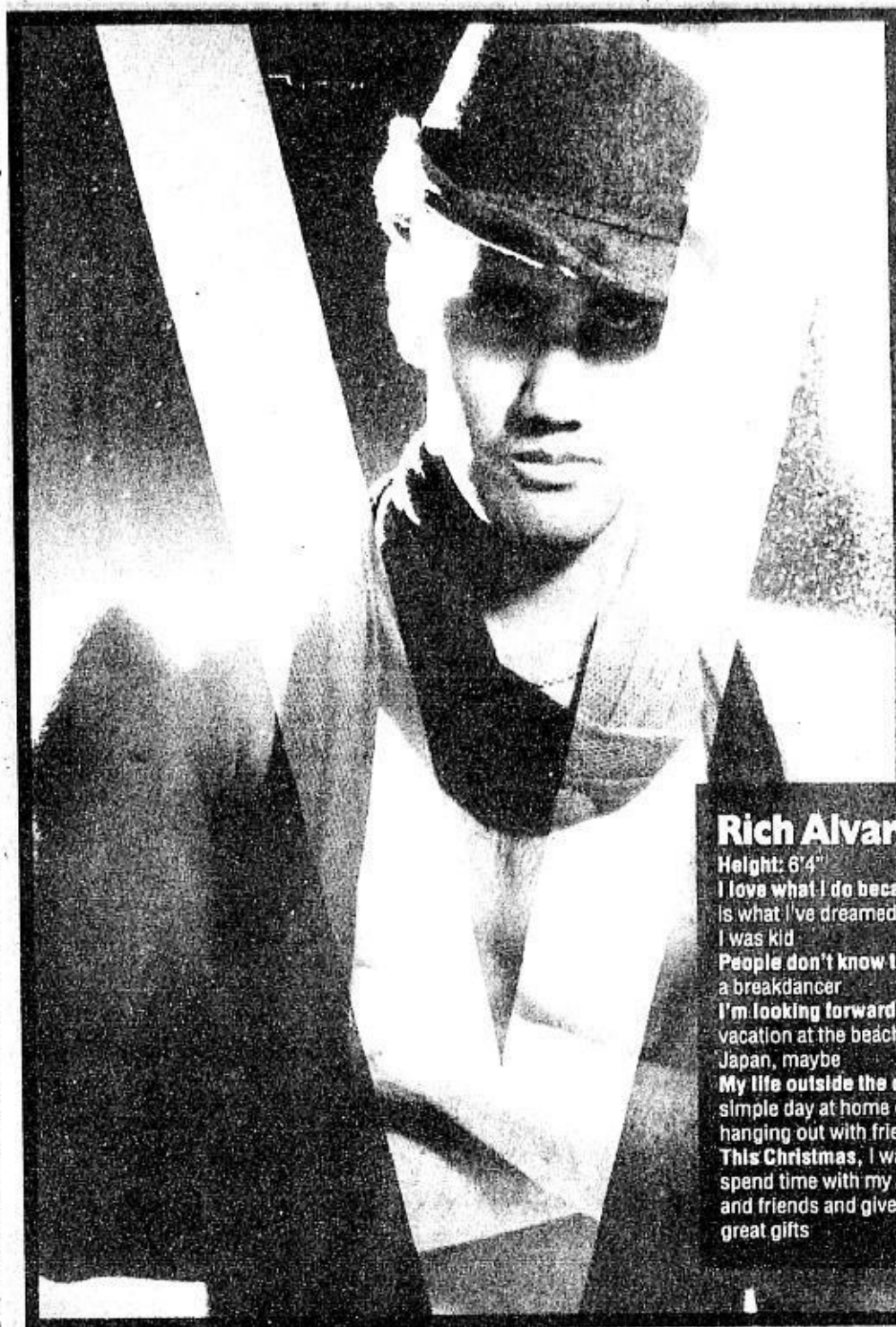
pure groove

DRINK MODERATELY



Wesley Gonzales

Height: 6'4"
My advantage over others is I'm smooth.
I love what I do because... I just love basketball.
People don't know that I am funny.
I'm looking forward to Christmas and dressing up like Santa Claus.
My life outside the court is like a game.
This Christmas, I will be training.



Rich Alvarez

Height: 6'4"
I love what I do because this is what I've dreamed of since I was kid.
People don't know that I am a breakdancer.
I'm looking forward to a long vacation at the beach, or Japan, maybe.
My life outside the court is a simple day at home or just hanging out with friends.
This Christmas, I want to spend time with my family and friends and give them great gifts.

BOYS

From page G1

intended) with major deal endorsements, show biz offers (though they all deny any interest in the field) and girls screaming (Enrico and his girlfriend have been together for six years) at their every move.

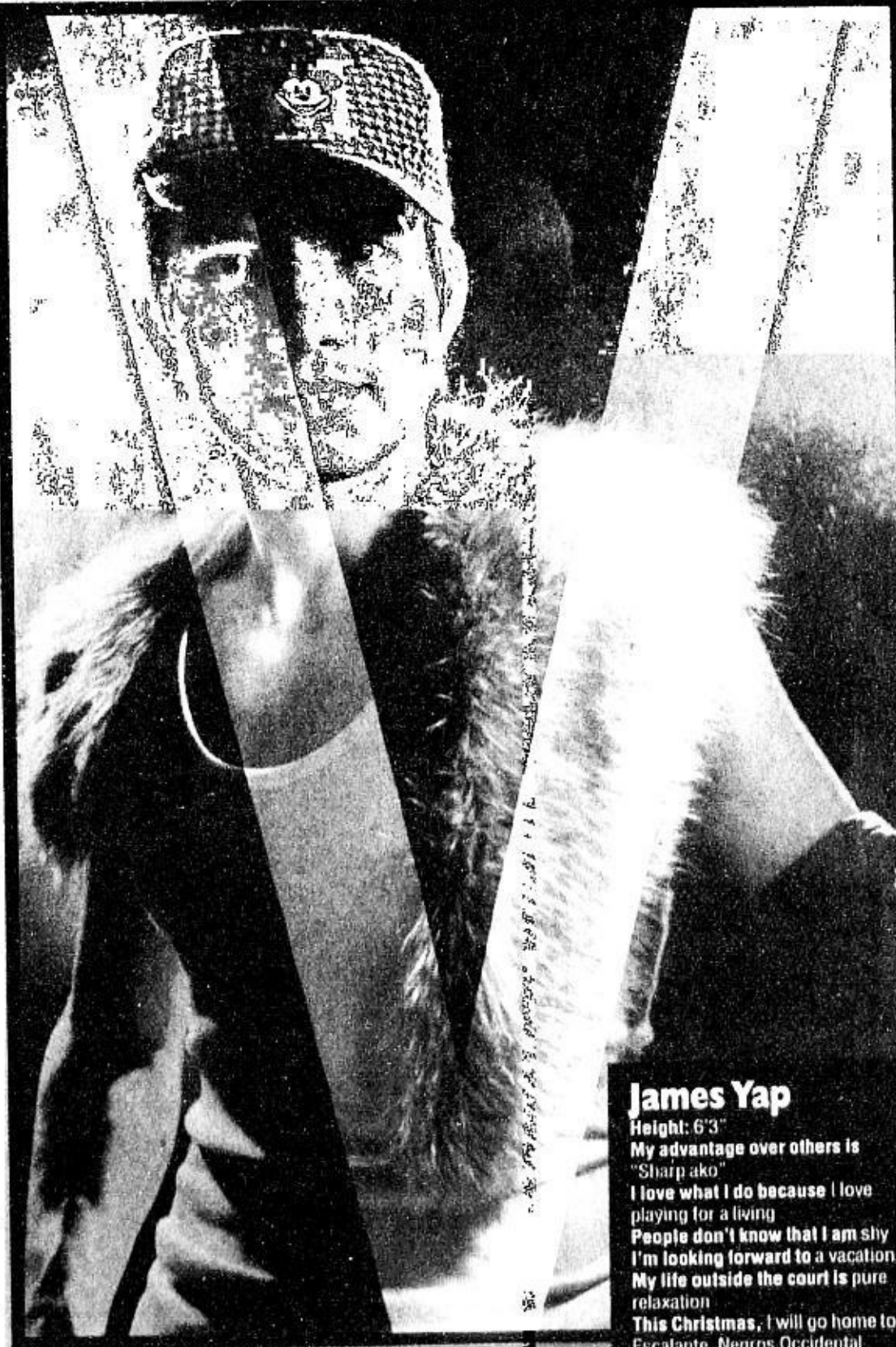
Behind Mark Nicdao's lens, they are all boys out to just play the best game they can ever play. "Play" became the operative word of this Super! shoot, as we placed each of the Gillette Vector First Five on the cover of V—that fantastic rag that raves about fashion and fantasy.

It doesn't take a good shave to realize that.



Enrico Villanueva

Height: 6'5"
My advantage over others is the solid game I play.
I love what I do because of the competition.
People don't know that I am the opposite of how I am on court.
I'm looking forward to traveling/visiting my sisters in the US.
My life outside the court is laid-back.
This Christmas, I'll be with family and friends.



James Yap

Height: 6'3"
My advantage over others is "Sharp ako."
I love what I do because I love playing for a living.
People don't know that I am shy.
I'm looking forward to a vacation.
My life outside the court is pure relaxation.
This Christmas, I will go home to Escalante, Negros Occidental.



The giving threesome

SOMEbody high up there is trying to tell me something. And I don't mean the fat guy in the red suit chilling the North Pole.

'Twas the advent of the season of giving, but I wasn't feeling quite so generous. I was sitting on a little cantina by the Caribbean Sea, eating a cheap meal of cheese quesadillas and tap water. The reason for my ho-ho-horrible disposition that day was because I was struck with some bad luck as my backpack had gotten stolen on a night bus in a shady Mexican town. In that bag were my beautiful clothes, some badly needed pocket money to get me through the last leg of my journey, and most importantly, my well-loved old pair of eyebrow tweezers.

I had spoken to the head honchos of the bus company in the hope of at least getting a little refund for my lost things, but such is the reality of bureaucracy and the *mañana* habit even in this part of the world that it seemed certain that I would soon be eating grasshoppers and stale bread until I flew back home to Manila.

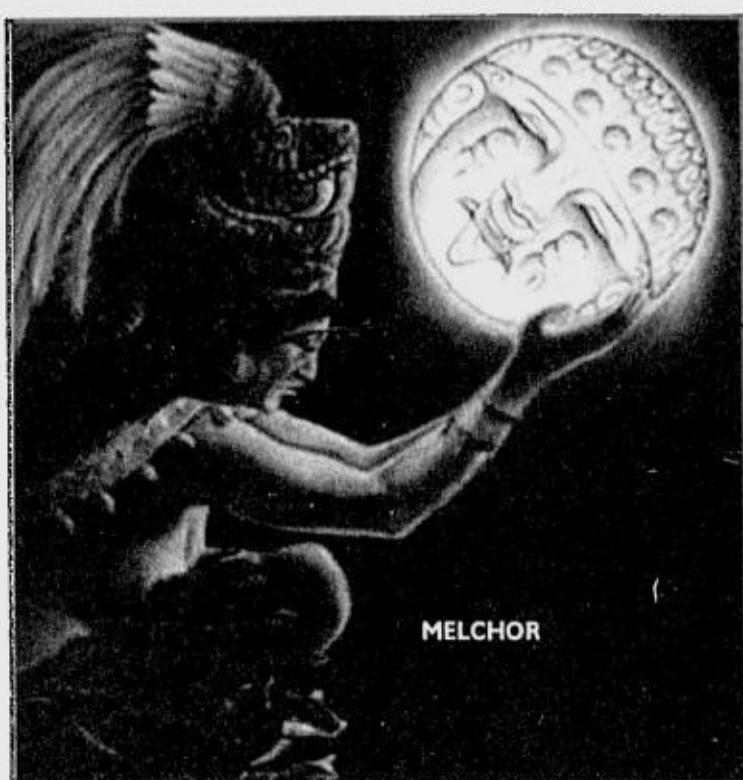
Suddenly, a ragged old Mexican man riding a bicycle that had seen better days stopped by my side. Displaying a wide, toothless grin, he asked me for my name and, of all the things, if I liked art. I said that of course I did, though I wasn't quite sure about where the strange topic of choice was heading. The man then asked if he could sit down to show me some of his artwork.

Before I could even respond, the man parked his bike and then... hopped over to me. It turned out that he was a one-legged painter residing on the island, a victim of a shark attack long ago. He opened his little bag and unrolled his colorful designs of abstract sea life and Mayan goddesses painted on torn canvas. They were beautiful indeed, but I wasn't about to invest what was left of my little pocket money on something that wouldn't fill my stomach.

Yet as he passionately described each and every artwork he created, I noticed his eyes hungrily darting about my measly quesadilla. I decided to purchase the cheapest one, for 100 Mexican pesos, and invited him to sit with me. With his little earnings from my pocket, he ordered some food and two bottles of beer.

Another man passes by. He was a fisherman, shirtless, long-haired and dark-skinned that it was almost purple. On his arms were intricate tattoos of the Virgin Mary and several Aztec gods. He greeted the old cripple and introduced himself to me, and invited himself to sit down, ordering a beer as well.

I admit that a bit of terror had struck me. I was ready to bolt if



MELCHOR

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz



A surreal but true tale of generosity, minus the cheese

any slight breath of a suspicious action took place. Then, of all things, the two men get into a little discussion about their most precious belongings, namely, stones and fossils.

The tattooed fisherman took out a little round rock from his pocket, explaining that he had found it on another island. It was supposedly a semi-precious stone which he called ojo de-something (eye-of-something). I tried to suppress my amused smile because it looked more like the eye of dried-cat shit. But he went on waxing philosophical about the stone, that he believed it brought him good luck and protection. He stared so longingly at the round object in his hands that I seriously thought he was falling in love with it. Then, the most curious thing happened. He handed his precious stone to me and said, "mi regalo para ti (my gift for you)." For my good luck, he said.

The crippled man then brought out his own personal prized collection. Of fossils. Yep, fossils. Wrapped within an old handkerchief were imprints of old shells and fish bones that he collected over the years. Speaking passionately, again as a man inebriated with love, he belted out full-blown descriptions of each and every one of them, including where and when and how old he was when he found them. He let out a deep, satisfied sigh after his little speech, and then looked at me, gesturing me to pick out three that I liked the most. I pointed at three of the most col-

orful ones, and to my surprise, he picked them up and gave them to me! For good luck, he said.

The bottles of beer had been consumed and as my two companions called out to the waiter, I confess that I expected them to look at me to foot the bill. Instead, the dark fisherman tattooed with the Virgin Mary and the Aztec gods counted his loose change for the exact amount of coins needed to pay for our beers.



GASPAR

He mouthed out something to the cripple, about a little fiesta happening just around the corner, and they both decide to head on over to the party.

I politely begged off from their invitation, and they simply smiled and actually thanked me for my company before they set off. But not before calling out to a rose seller passing by, to buy me one last gift, a red rose. Once again, it was for "good luck."

As a final hirit, the one-legged old man handed me 50 Mexican pesos which he said he was "lending me" because he thought I should eat more.

When they left, I looked at my three gifts: a stone, fossils, and a red rose. Not exactly gold, frankincense and myrrh, but they were just as precious because of the value it meant to the giver. It really is strange but true, that sometimes, the ones who have so little are the ones who give the most.

So what really is the true spirit of giving? Is it the gift itself, or the thought that counts as the old-cliche rings? I learned, from a strange fellowship of a one-legged old painter and a tattooed fisherman, that the value in giving is when one gives almost to the point that it hurts. And yet it is that very act of sacrifice that makes all the difference.

I had suddenly lost all my concerns for my stolen belongings, my nice clothes and my precious pair of tweezers, as I realized they were material things that could be replaced. Yep, somebody up there, way up there, is trying to teach me something.

Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com



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Isha jazzes up the airwaves

By Oliver M. Pulmarit
Contributor

TRULY talented people are few and far between in today's ever-fickle entertainment starscape. But they're there, and the deserving ones eventually get noticed.

One such gifted artist is Isha, or Pearlsha Abubakar-Quebral, as she is known by close friends and readers of edgy music magazine Pulp. Isha, who is the magazine's managing editor, conducts interviews and writes reviews and articles during regular office hours, and sings and writes her own music every chance she gets.

Her laid-back cover of Madonna's late '80s hit "Cherish" zoomed into the third spot of Jam 88.3's request chart just a few weeks after its initial airplay, and continues to gain popularity. Earlier this year, her poignant ballad "I Don't Love You Anymore" was prominently featured in the gay-themed local film

ISHA/H2

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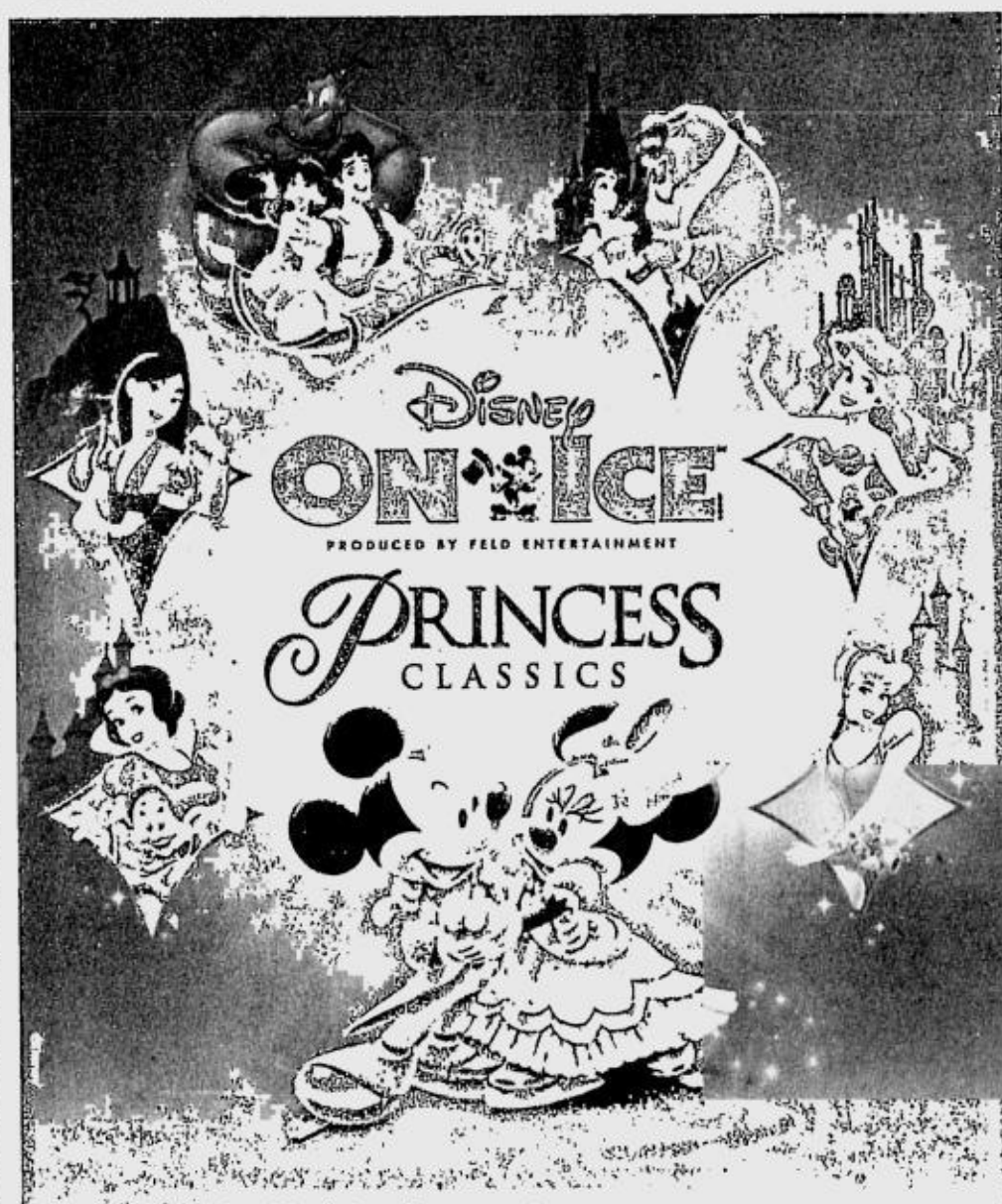
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Daphne Oseña-Paez. TV host and style icon. She embodies the BreadTalk lifestyle.

Culture and class. Sense and style. Fashion, food, and fun. These come together in Daphne's refreshing personality, capturing the very essence of BreadTalk. Recently named one of the best lifestyle TV show hosts for the third year in a row, Daphne lends a new face to sophistication. Bags and shoes are her fetish and she effortlessly combines fashion with fun. In the colorful industry she belongs to, she stands out through understatement, a classic in every sense.

Bread Creation: Chic chic

Shaped like a clutch bag, this cute bread is filled with something else Daphne loves: Flosss! A spin-off on BreadTalk's Hot Chic Flosss, the Chic chic reflects Daphne's personality as she herself gives new meaning to 'chic'-ness by embodying sophistication and class in the media industry.

Bread Inspirations

JUST several months after unveiling its first branch in the country in Glorietta 4, BreadTalk has been the talking point of people of all ages and walks of life due to its revolutionary take on the bread industry, its fun, innovative products, as well as its sleek, modern look.

Signature items Flosss, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Bacon, and Mr. Beans, among others, have become fast favorites not only for their quirky names and eye-catching designs but for their unique marriage of East and Western food traditions. BreadTalk has proven that there are limitless possibilities yet to be explored in the bread-world and has taken on the dynamic challenge of finding new and better ways to enjoy the bread experience to the fullest.

A couple of weeks ago, they opened their Rockwell store by making bread creations inspired by five different personalities—Daphne Oseña-Paez, Tim Yap, Johnny Litton, JP Masakayan and Winward Chu.



Johnny Litton. Society columnist. TV host. Life of the party.

In the Who's Who of our society pages, it would be impossible to miss this face. Hobnobbing with high society becomes a day-to-day affair as Mr. Johnny Litton gives us a peek into the circles of the rich and famous. Always the life of the party, he shows us just how to throw a good one! With a following of his own, a TV show about to hit the airwaves, and loving every bit of it... Oh Yes, It's Johnny!

Bread Creation: Oh Yes, It's Johnny!

A comical spin-off on BreadTalk's very own Mr. Beans, Mr. Johnny Litton's familiar face has now been animated atop a sweet bun and filled with a traditional Filipino favorite: ube-macapuno. As BreadTalk likes to say: our breads come alive! This one's definitely talking!



Tim Yap. Eventologist and Trendsetter. Unafraid to be different.

The public eye is on him—blond hair, quirky clothes, the whole package. Chronicler of the hippest happenings in the metro. Tim Yap's presence spells never a dull moment. We can only wonder about the workings of his mind, where his inspirations spring from, what he'll do next. And with his mysterious persona, he keeps us guessing. Nevertheless, he is a statement in himself and quite the individual.

Bread Creation: Tim-Yap-Pie (pronounced liketinapay)

What's bread without a twist? As BreadTalk has transformed ordinary dough into bread with a twang of its own, so has Tim Yap taken the party scene and spiced it up to the nines! Literally shaped with a twist, this bread is a curious mix of Asian spice and true Pinoy flavor. The Tim-Yap-Pie is made from Indian naan dough and filled with Tim's favorite adobo flakes, kesong puti, fresh tomatoes and basil. This is one interesting creation for a character who's equally so.

Aside from the personality-inspired breads, the old favorites are still there—Flosss, Mr. Beans, Crouching Tiger and Hidden Bacon



TIM YAP in Puey Quinones, with Tricia Chiongbian

Bread-talk

BreadTalk's store No. 2 is now open, much to the delight of carb-happy Pinoys

By Pam Pastor

THERE'S a trail of bread-crumbs but it does not lead to a gingerbread house.

BreadTalk just opened the doors of its second store to the public. Now, if the lines are too long at Glorietta 4, bread-heads can dash over to Rockwell Power Plant for their carb fix.

During opening night, which was hosted by Tim Yap and Tricia Chiongbian, guests were treated to a breathtaking buffet of BreadTalk's signature breads and champagne. The highlight of the night was the breadmaking show which featured Tim Yap, Daphne Oseña-Paez, Johnny Litton, JP Masakayan of Rockwell Land and Winward Chu, president and CEO of BreadTalk Philippines. They recreated five new bread innovations by the BreadTalk team, all based on their personalities.

Aside from the personality-inspired breads, the old favorites are still there—Flosss, Mr. Beans and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Bacon—plus yummy new creations that are definitely worth a try. Say hello to Double Trouble, Chocolate Hill and the Chocolate Smart Aleck for chocoholics and Vegetarian Pizza, Green Tea An Pan and Pop-eye Toast for vegetarians.

Dr. Atkins will not be pleased. But the rest of us are.



JP Masakayan, VP for Retail, Rockwell Land, Inc. With a PBJ (peanut butter-and-jelly) addiction to end all diets.

1. Take a soft white bread. 2. Spread over a thick layer of peanut butter. 3. Cover entirely with sweet currant jelly. 4. Add another chunk of peanut butter. 5. And a final topping of jelly!

For JP Masakayan, this guilty pleasure is all it takes for him to put his South Beach Diet on hold—and we're sure he's not the only one! In this cutthroat world of business, the good old PBJ brings JP all the way back to the pure and simple joys of childhood. And if only for those few moments, it's well, well worth it!

Bread Creation: PBJ (Peanut Butter & Jelly)

2 buns and his 2 favorite fillings: peanut butter in one, and blueberry jelly in the other. Old habits die hard. This butterfly-shaped bread simply tells JP to drop The Diet and head on over to BreadTalk! Who says peanut butter and jelly is For Kids Only? This is one comfort food that's here to stay. Satisfy that craving... When in doubt, go PBJ. And make it a double.



Winward Chu, Managing Director, BreadTalk Philippines. A living example of culture fusion.

At first glance, the look is unmistakably Chinese. At hello, one detects a hint of twang. And after a couple more minutes into the conversation, he slips in Filipino words with ease. Born in the Philippines, with roots from China, raised in North America. This is East-meets-West in the flesh.

As BreadTalk strives to bring something new to its public, so does Winward, who's always looking for things out-of-the-box and bringing fusion to another level. Indeed, endless food possibilities are in our hands!

Bread Creation: Out of this World

Winward's out-of-this world creation is a miniature of his mindset. Reflecting his love of things Japanese, this bread oozes with a Japanese miso filling complemented by smoked salmon, green onions, and sprinkled with seaweed. This union of East and West is aptly shaped like a globe, showing that with an open mind, the whole world is within reach.



ENJOYING her 15 minutes

Isha jazzes up . . .

From page H1

"Duda." Prior to that, Isha has written a song for chanteuse Lynn Sherman, and provided original musical scoring for several short films and documentaries.

"I had an epiphany when I was 12," the 28-year-old singing scribe says. "Up until that point, I was just interpreting other people's songs. I started singing when I was in Kinder. I sang in parties, programs and competitions. By age 12, I discovered the piano. A friend who was formally trained in music taught me how to play. There were melodies forming in my head. I didn't know why then, but I felt I needed to express them."

She began writing simple instrumental compositions, and her love for music was further nurtured in high school, at the School of the Holy Spirit

in Quezon City. "The school is culture-oriented. We were encouraged to express ourselves artistically. There were choral competitions every year. That's when I really started writing my own songs," says the animated multi-tasker.

Isha finished Journalism at the University of the Philippines, but she continued to write her own compositions even after deciding not to pursue formal training in music. She loves writing, whether it be laced with notes or not. Writing brought her to places where her creative juices flowed. She became a copywriter at ABS-CBN, and later, at Channel V Philippines. She met her future husband, filmmaker and music video visionary Robert Quebral, while working at the music channel in 1999.

Her debut album, "Time and Again," contains eight originals and six covers including Tears for Fears' "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," The Go-Go's "Head Over Heels," and Billie Holiday's "I'll Be Seeing You." Isha channels, perhaps subconsciously, goddess of weird Tori Amos and the 1994 folk persona of Milla Jovovich through her emotional vocal paunts.

She's got a Lilith Fair-esque vibe working for her, as evidenced by this energetic debut. Her soaring alto is accompanied mostly by her dexterous piano-playing, and a determined focus on flexibility. "I'm not a jazz singer in the truest sense of the word. But what I did in this debut effort is jazz up the New Wave songs that I know," she says. "With the sacred and standards, I made them really melodic.

cholic, reinterpretations. But the covers are just the breakers. The real meat and substance of the album are, of course, my originals."

Isha was signed up by the new label Candid Records for a multi-album deal. After she personally gave a copy of her self-recorded EP of original material to executive producer Nieves Pascua-Bates after doing a phone interview with jazz artist Stacey Kent in their office.

Three days later, she was contacted to perform for Miss Bates and some label executives at a restaurant that had a baby grand piano. After one set, she was pleasantly shocked because she was handed a recording contract.

"It was perfect timing. It was only months ago, last June. They respected that I have my other job at Pulp as well, so I can still keep it. I was allowed to do what I want. They secured the permits for the songs I wanted to cover. I worked well with my producer Rhian Torres and corresponded with Candid Records' Alan Bates about my plan for this record," she enthuses.

Isha selected three of her old songs from the EP and made five new tracks especially for "Time and Again." She says, "The inspiration has been permeating. I have to be overcome by deep emotion. I play the piano while singing. When it hits me, I don't want to record songs at all during this stage. It has to be very memorable. If I couldn't remember it anymore, it's not worth recording or putting on an album at all."

She truly is a star that shines the stars forever now, and is happy with the new experience. "There are no more exceptions. It's my time. It's my turn."

Wake up. It's here.

If you are an urbanite at heart, the city is your soul. Big cities are crowded. Tumbled up and down.

But there are breakaways that happen once in a while. Like Rockwell. It is a departure from the standard Burbs. Absolutely contained, traffic is not sanctioned here. And security runs 24-hours daily. In this era of anxiety attacks, that's one less worry.

Despite the peace, Rockwell rocks. Surprising structures change the skyline every now and then. But even with these, there is no sense of overcrowding. Towers loom but space is preserved. The marvel of urban planning makes the place teem with life and abundant space.

Rockwell is diverse. There are bargain haunts as well as designer labels, traditional and quirky buys, mainstream and transitional events and a global choice of restaurants.

Walk the streets of Rockwell and feel a dose of Beverly Hills. The neighborhood wears the charm, the soul and the attitude of a place that doesn't need to prove anything anymore.

Exclusive as it is, Rockwell is not the bastion of "The Stepford Wives". It is not rigid, imposing nor intimidating. Smiles are casual, real and warm.

Quite a dream place that you can have. The price is within your league. But the feeling is close to fantastic.

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Joya

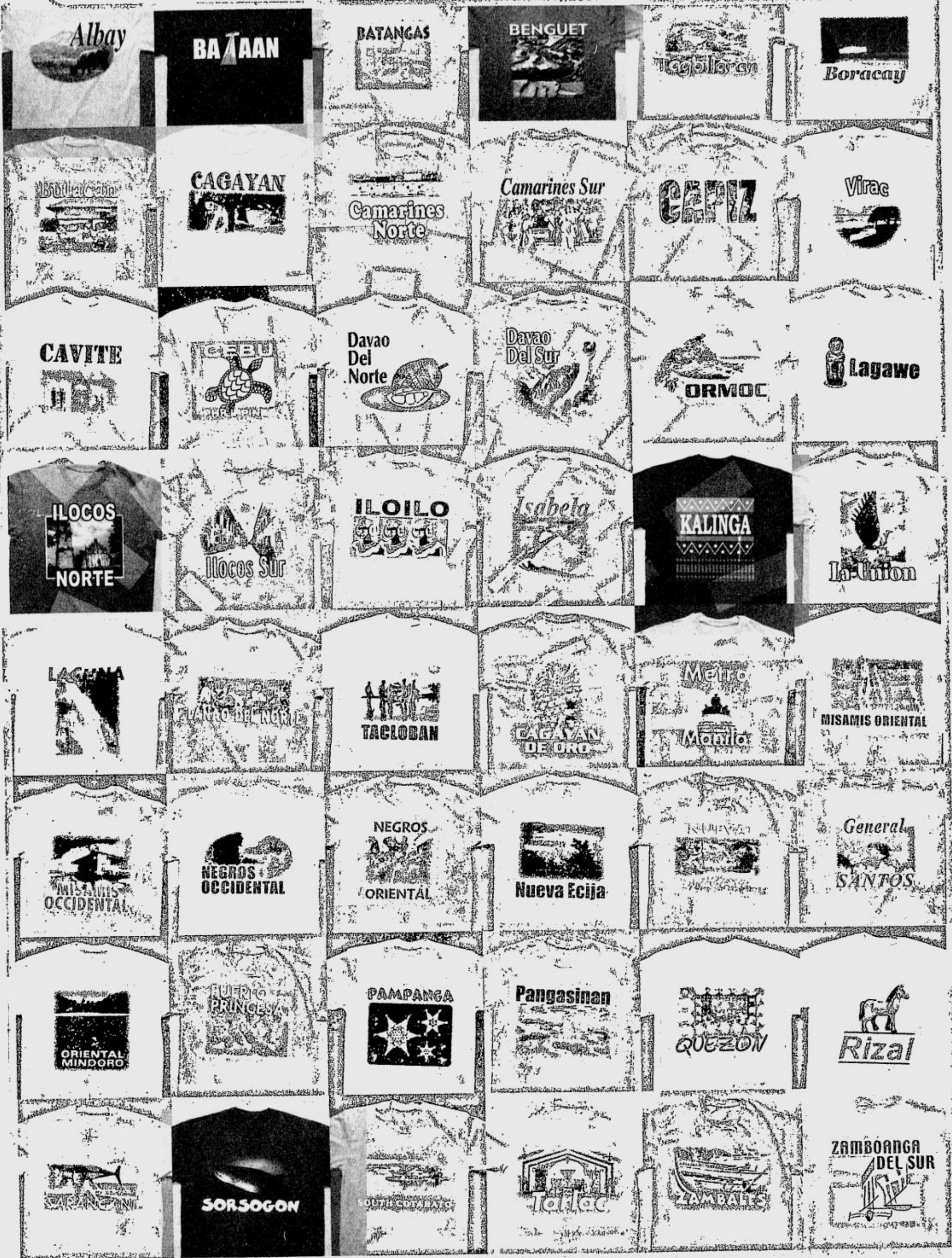
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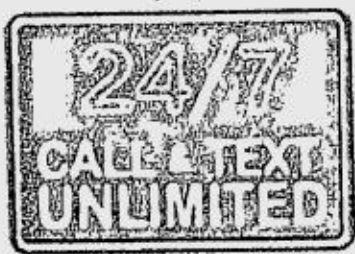
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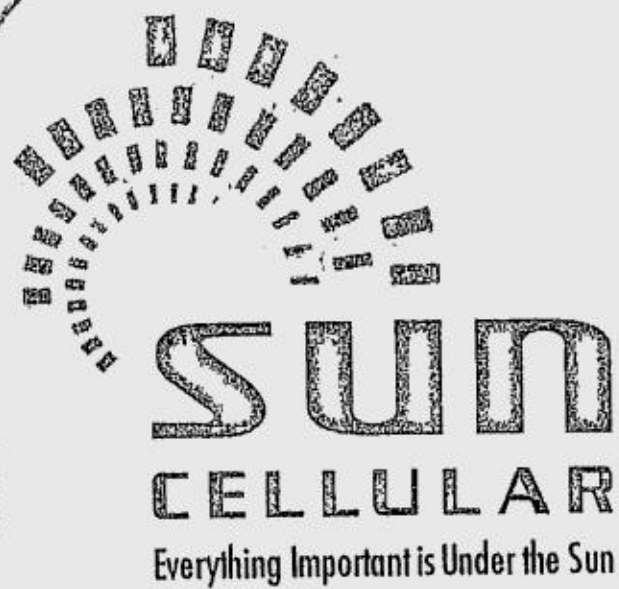
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INSPIRATION SANDWICH

Feet first



By Jenni Epperson
Photography: Richard Perez
For the artist, this silver wonder is "Audrey Hepburn meets Donatella Versace—classic chic head-to-head with bitch glam."

This unique exhibit lets shoes shine like never before

By Jojo Nones

THE SKY was tempestuous and the wind was howling with discontent, but the Museum Cafe at the Ayala Museum in Greenbelt was ringing with toasts and cheers. It was the unveiling of the Pretty Fit/Beetle Bug exhibit and the crowd that gathered before the interesting photographs were invariably uncaring of the nasty weather outside.



It was an unusual party as Tim Yap, along with Celine Lopez, Raya Mananquil, Jenni Epperson, Kate Torralba, Xeng Zulueta, and Claudine Sia, chose to present styled photographs of Pretty Fit and Beetle Bug shoes rather than having the usual fashion show. This time, the shoes were not being modeled, but rather, they were modeling themselves, acting as stars of their own photo-shoots, primped up by some of the most excitingly creative people in the metro.

FEET/12

By Jenni Epperson

Photography: Tom Epperson

The artist humors us by saying this Pretty Fit beauty reminds her of Pledge (furniture polish) for its color and gloss. But a more sophisticated comparison, she then adds, is Summer's Citrus Seduction.

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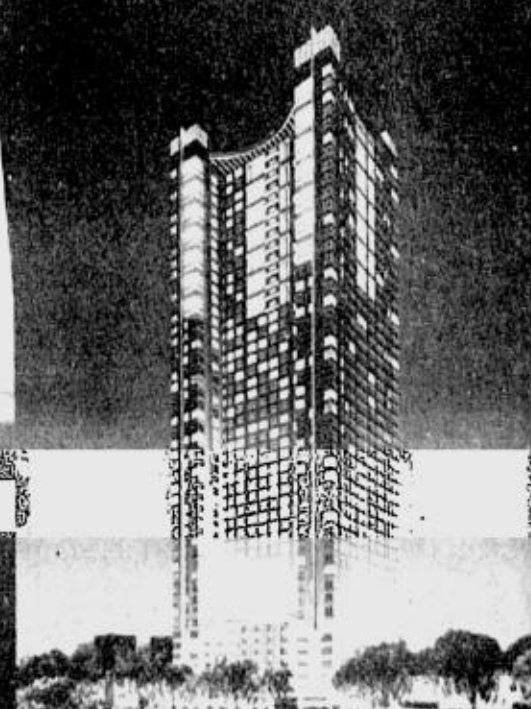
Indulge in sky-high space and extravagance with yet-another wonder from Philtown.

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It was the unveiling of the Pretty Fit/Beetle Bug exhibit and the crowd that gathered before the interesting photographs were invariably uncaring of the nasty weather outside.

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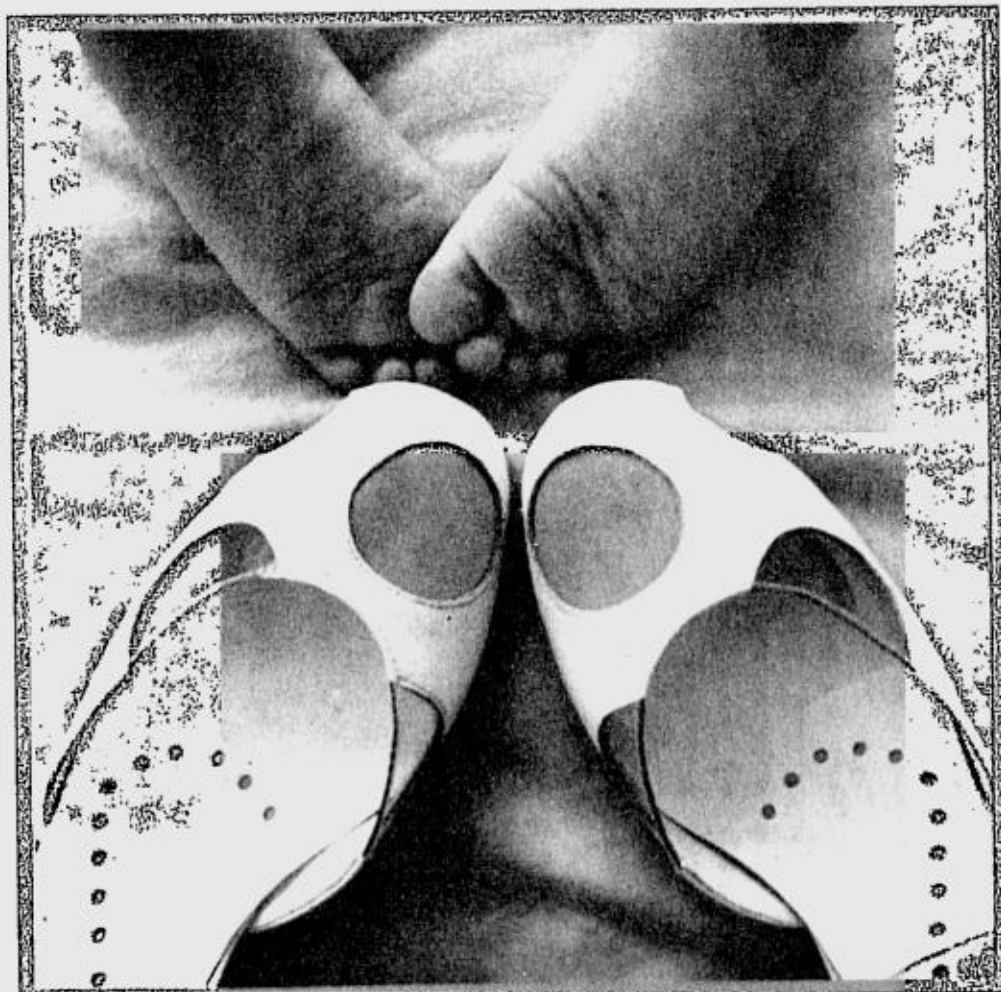
FE



By Tim Yap
Photography: Mark Niedao and Erwin Barleta of Edge of Light
A Yohji Yamamoto jacket with the artist's airbrushed image and likeness inspired him to come up with this Beetle Bug art piece.

By Tim Yap
Photography: Mark Niedao and Erwin Barleta of Edge of Light
The artist points to the endless possibilities of the future as his inspiration.

Drink up or speak up. Our continued reliance on imported fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy is one of the largest reasons behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the worsening condition of our water supplies. This dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable to the spiralling cost of coal and oil in the world market. And things will only get murkier unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, biomass, hydro, and solar. Speak up and let the government know you want clean energy. Text WWF YES <Your Name> to 2368 for Globe (P2.50/text) or log on to www.powerswitch.org.ph/vote. Act now and help get the Renewable Energy Bill passed into law. Maybe then, the future won't be such a hard thing to swallow.



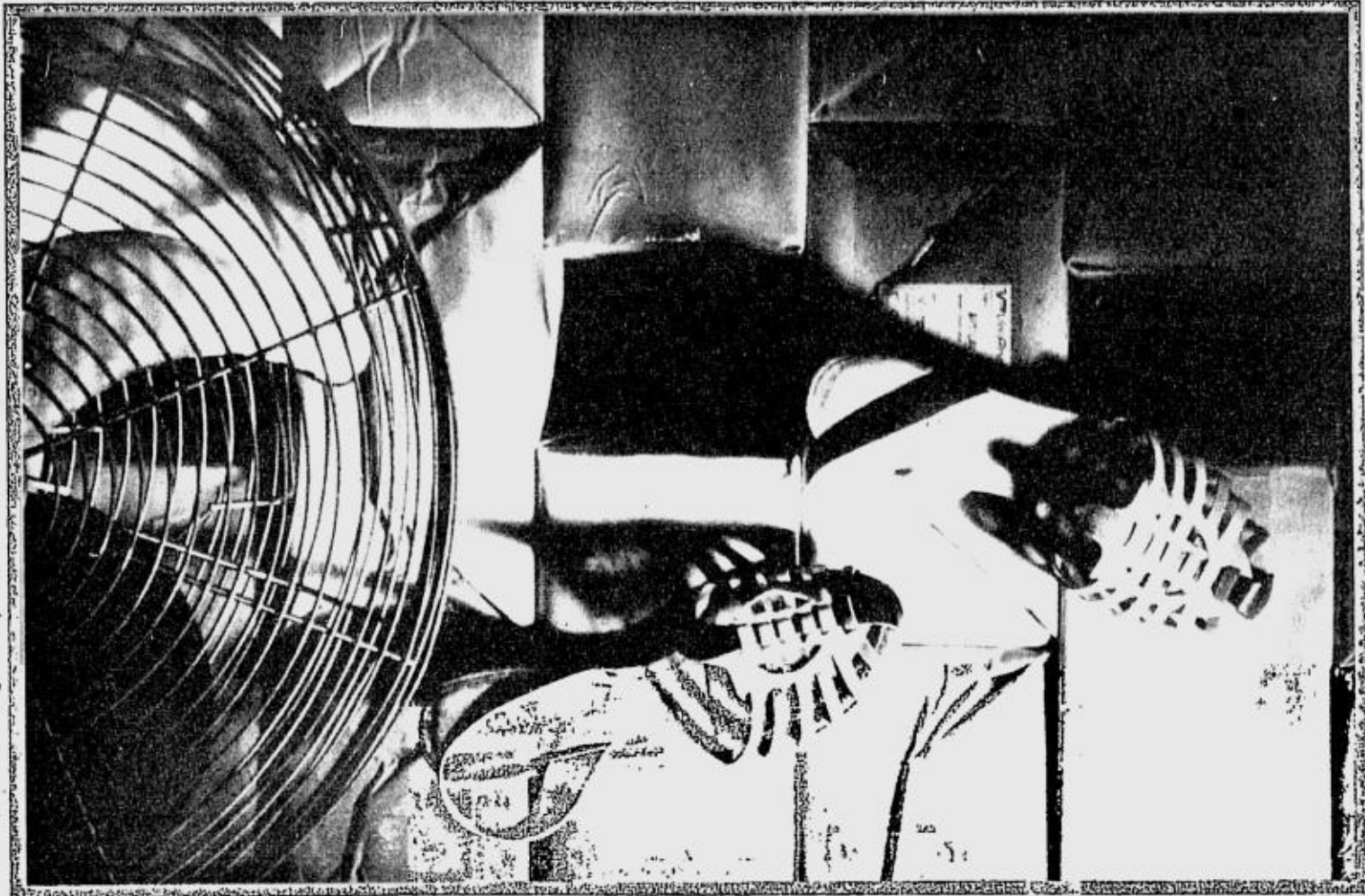
Design and photo by Claudine Sia
The artist simply points to her daughter Rosie as her sole inspiration for this Pretty Fit art piece.

Design and photo by Kate Torralba
The artist wanted to take a photo of these Mondrian-inspired shoes against a tile-patterned backdrop. She just went up to the penthouse pool of the building where she lives and took a few snapshots. She describes it as "quick, candid, and unpretentious."

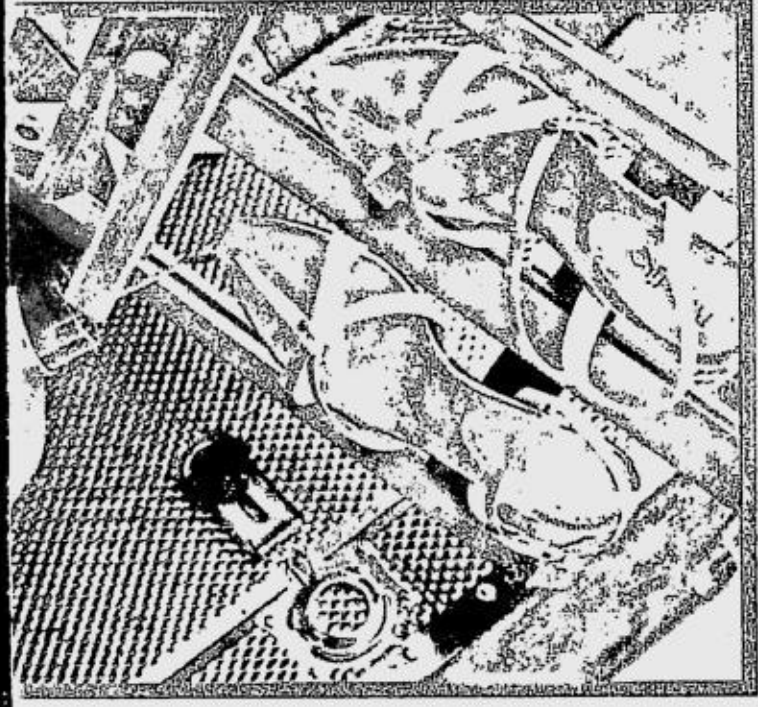


et first
Design and photo by Celine Lopez
 The artist states she was inspired by the retro design made modern by the metallic finish. She wanted to play on the timelessness of great design and the romantic feel of nostalgia.

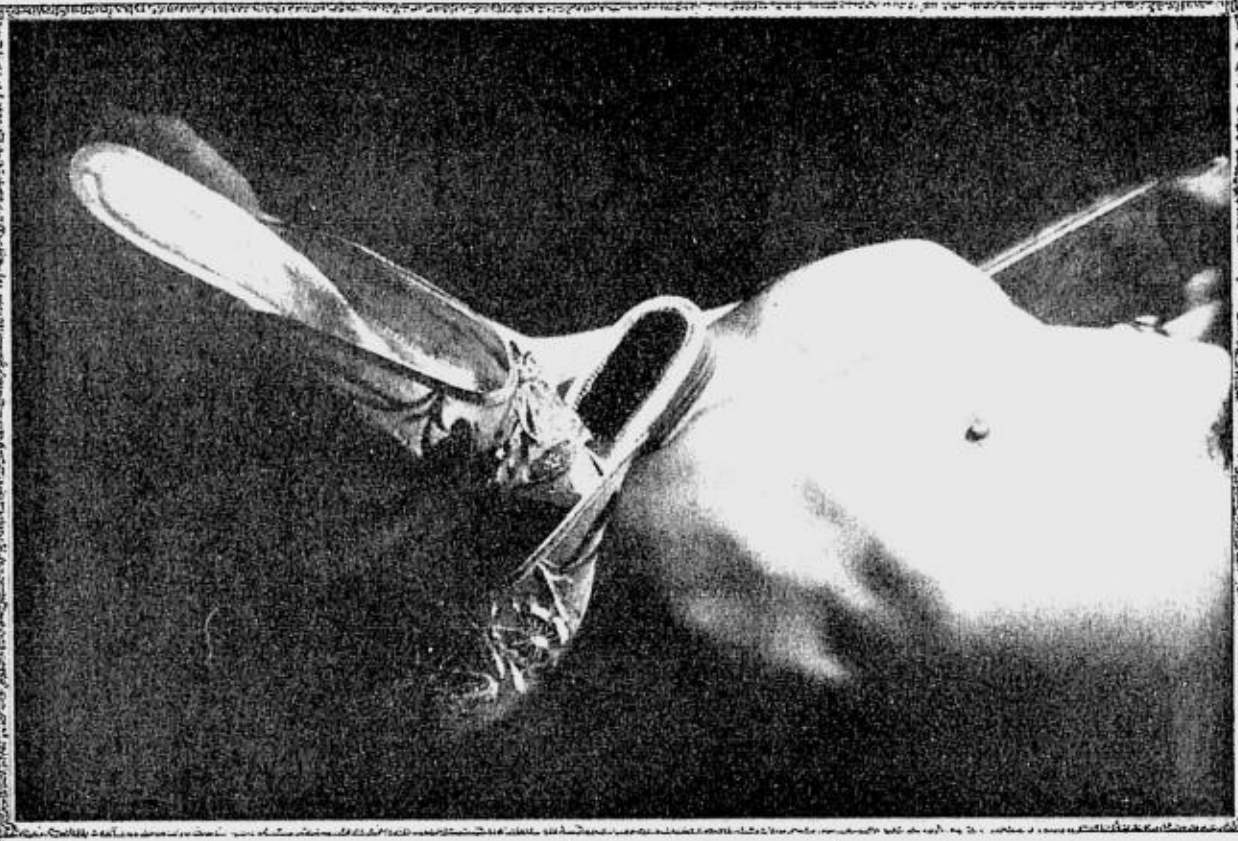
et first
By Xeng Zulueta
Photography: Erwin Barleta of Edge of Light
 The artist was inspired by the image of teenagers sneaking out of the house late into the night, sans the knowledge of their parents, to join their friends at parties.



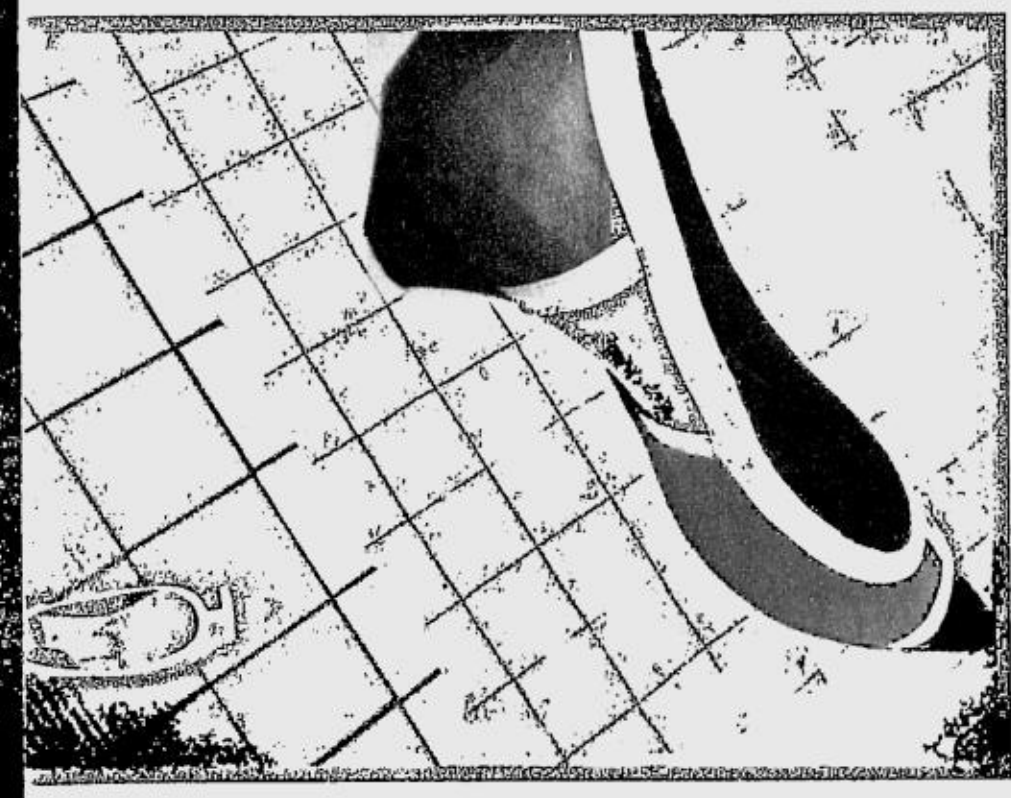
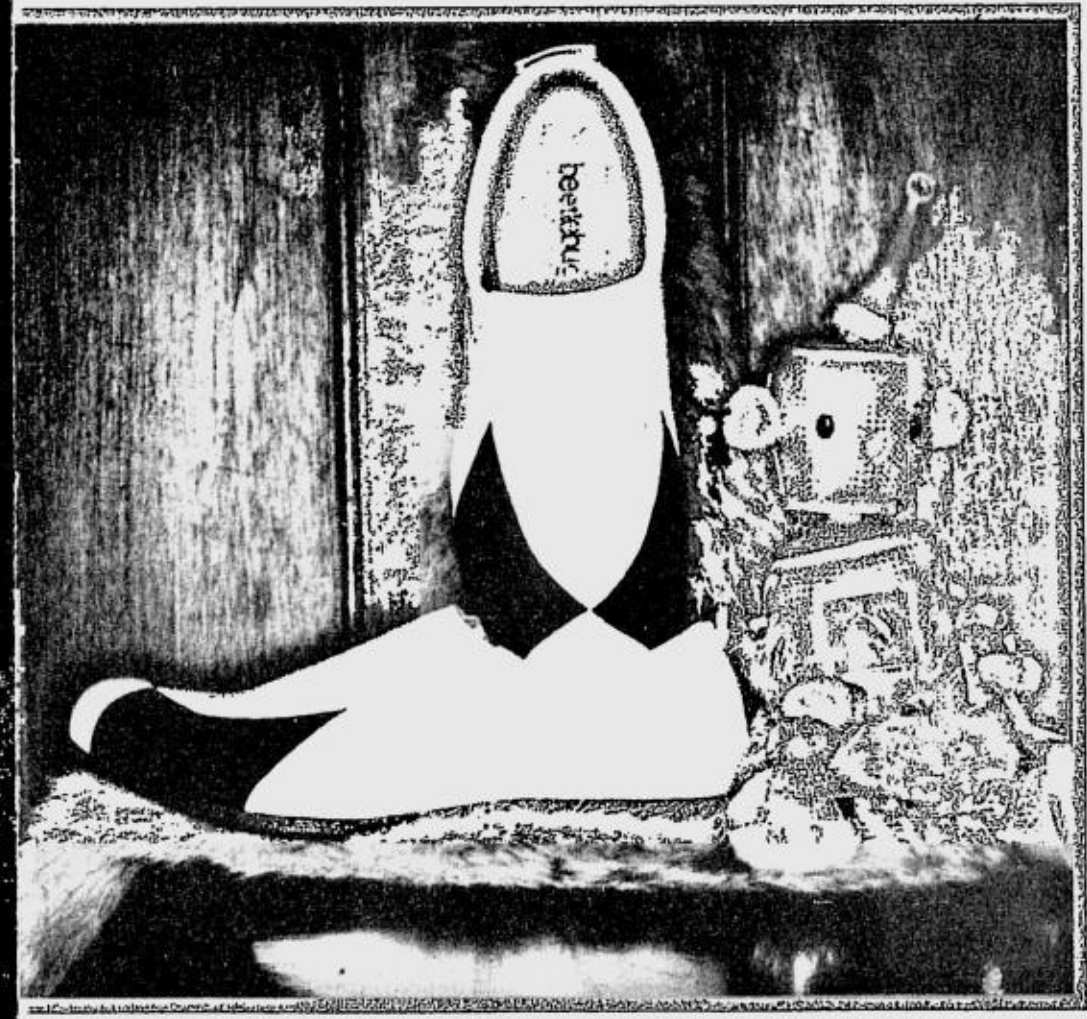
et first



et first
From page 11
By Xeng Zulueta
Photography: Mark Nicdao of Edge of Light
 Judging by the title of the art piece alone, one can already tell what the artist's inspiration was. Yes, it's the tragedy and grandeur of the "Titanic."



et first
By Raya Mananquil
Photography: Mark Nicdao of Edge of Light
 The artist decides to fuse political correctness with art by choosing a non-leather shoe from Pretty Fit. She makes a statement by showing that anyone can be fashionable and animal-friendly at the same time.



GUYITO WILD HUNT

REWARDS

The wild chase is on for Inquirer's Guyito!

Look for the specially-marked Guyito coupon in the pages of Inquirer. Cut out, put your name, address and signature. Drop at designated drop boxes for a shot at your most wanted rewards!

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Hunt from September 27 to December 14, 2004!

See posters and print ads for more details.

Per DTI Permit No. 2147, Series of 2004.

All products are available at Digital Exchange Glorietta 3

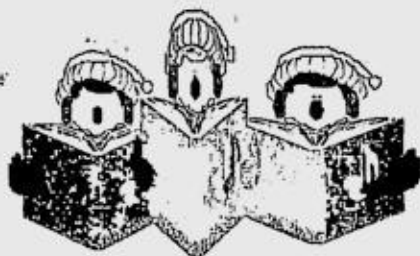
A Sparkling Christmas at

SM
SUPERMALLS

It's Christmas time in the City! SM Supermalls spread the cheer and share with families everywhere the gleeful spirit of the season. Join in the heart-warming holiday fun you definitely don't want to miss out!

Caroling Cheers

Hear more than 100 carolers of various schools and communities as they render their very best Christmas hymns in this much-awaited series of performances.



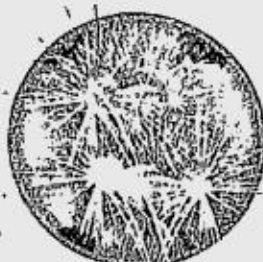
CAROLING CHEERS SCHEDULE

Dec. 01 – 23 (Mondays -Thursdays)
1st week Dec. 1-2
2nd week Dec. 6-9
3rd week Dec. 13-16
4th week Dec. 20-23

There will be two performances per day: The first caroling group sings for you at 3PM. The second group performs at 5PM.

Spectacular Fireworks Display

Welcome the New Year and witness the Spectacular Fireworks display that will lighten the evening sky of SM Supermalls.



SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY SCHEDULE

- SM City Marilao, SM City Pampanga, SM City Lucena, SM City Baguio, SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, SM City Cagayan de Oro Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25 (every Saturday) and Dec. 30
- SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Batangas Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 (every Saturday & Sunday) and Dec. 30
- Metro Manila Malls SM City North Edsa, SM Supercenter Sucat, SM Southmall Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25 (every Saturday) and Dec. 30
- SM Megamall, SM City Bicutan, SM City Fairview Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 (every Sunday) and Dec. 30
- SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City Manila, SM City Bacoor Dec. 30 only

Santa's Corner

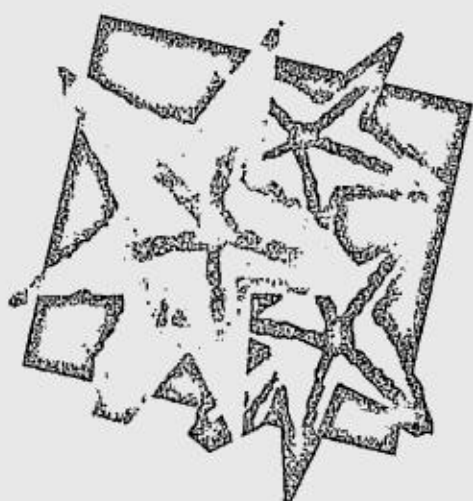


Have your memorable picture taken with well-loved images of Santa Claus up to Jan. 5, 2005 in selected SM Supermalls.

Lantern Making Contest

Witness Pinoy craftsmanship at its finest in multi-colored lanterns created for the season. See for yourself this perfect yuletide display of creativity!

The Contest is open to all interested customers. One (1) entry per applicant for the entire SM Supermalls. Contestants can get the Application Form at the Marketing Department of SCMC Administration Office. Accomplish application form and submit with (3R) picture of entry with label and a brief essay explaining the lantern design.



Entries will be judged based on concept (40 points), creativity (30 points), and Over-all Presentation (30 points).

SCHEDULE:
December 15 – Deadline of Submission
December 17 – Judging of Entries
December 18 – Announcement of Winners
December 19 – Awarding of Winners

SM
SUPERMALLS

Christmas Shopping in the City

Lantern Making Contest

The craftsmanship of the Pinoy combined with a timeless Filipino Tradition. Join this Christmas competition and win exciting cash prizes.

Nov. 25 to Dec. 19

Spectacular Fireworks Display

Welcome the new year with the spectacular fireworks display that will lighten the evening sky of SM Supermall.

Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 & 30

Caroling Cheers

More than 100 carolers from various schools and community groups will serenade customers of SM Supermalls. Hear them sing the joyous carols of the season that deliver tidings of goodwill to all.

Dec. 1 to 23

Santa's Corner

Have your memorable picture taken with well-loved images of Santa Claus up to Jan. 5, 2005 in selected SM Supermalls.

Dec. 1, 2004 to Jan. 5, 2005

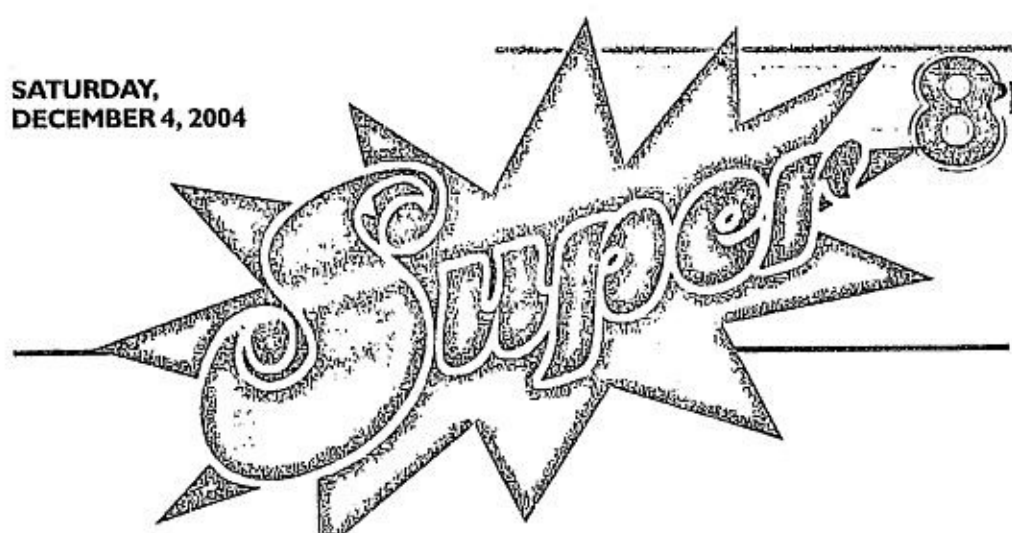
I ♥ **SMART**
Simply Amazing!

WAVE
89.1

Jam
88.5

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SM City North Edsa • SM Megamall • SM City Sta. Mesa • SM Southmall • SM City Manila • SM City Bicutan • SM Supercenter Sucat • SM City Fairview • SM City Baguio
SM City Pampanga • SM City Marilao • SM City Lucena • SM City Batangas • SM City Bacoor • SM City Dasmariñas • SM City Cebu • SM City Iloilo • SM City Cagayan de Oro • SM City Davao



BARGROOVES LIVE IN MANILA!

Raise your hands up in the air

By Chabs Rubio

IN THE year 2000, one of the U.K.'s finest DJs, Ben Sowton, began to observe that Europe's elite party regulars had outgrown the club scene and now frequented exclusive bars, hip restaurants and boutique hotels.

However, having grown up on a diet of house music, these party denizens still craved a similar yet more sophisticated sound. In response to the emergence of late-night bars as the evening's entertainment alternative, Sowton conceived the clubbing brand Bargrooves:

CD compilations that introduced a style of sophisticated deep house that soon caught the imagination of the fashionable and elegant party populace. The London-based Wallpaper magazine described Bargrooves as "achingly sophisticated," while Loaded magazine called it "slinky house loveliness."

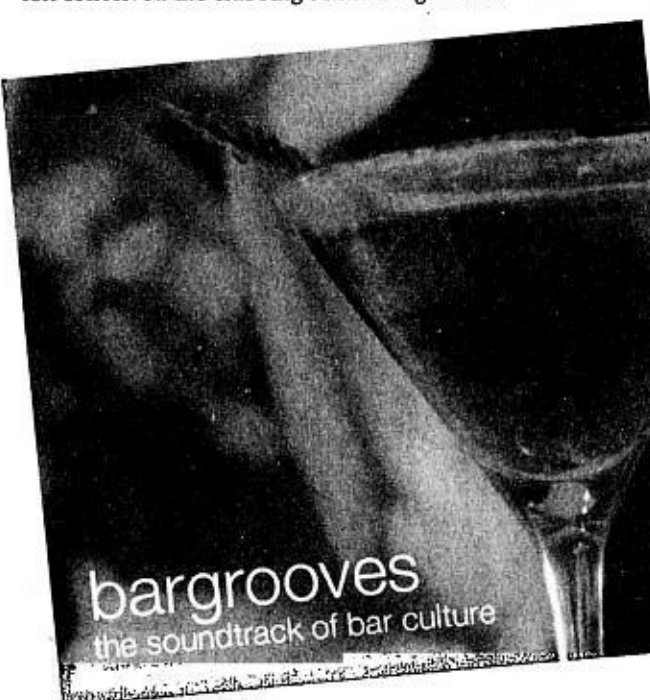
Ben says in one of his interviews, "You see it happening right now, with the superclubs on their knees! Bars have become the new dance floors. It's a shift, and obviously the soundtrack's changed—you're not listening to monotonous

trance, you're listening to things that are slightly more eclectic.

"We started... years ago, before any of the other kinds of bar compilations came out. I had the idea that people were starting to move away from clubs.

"But that doesn't mean that they wanted to hang up their dancing shoes and go to bed at 11 with a hot cup of cocoa! It was really inspired by the idea of house music for a post-club generation, with a soundtrack that was a lot deeper, a lot more sophisticated, featuring the world's best deep house producers. You know, from the likes of JJ from Moulton Studios in San Francisco to Circulation here in the UK—it's very broad, in terms of where we're drawing the music from, but

RAISE/J3



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LAUGHED,
YOU'VE
LEARNED,
NOW
CELEBRATE!

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December 5 SM Megamall
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 featuring:
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Cream Cheese
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Dear Santa,
Make your
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choice.

**Chicken Relleno
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Merry Christmas

Available from November 25, 2004 to January 10, 2005.
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COCKTAIL STRIKES.
Peter Lim and Celine Lopez



TASTES like
Tina Pamintuan



LAUGHTER
TATLER. Maurice
Arcache and Raul
Manzano



ATOMIC KITTEN.
Atom Henares
knows his groove



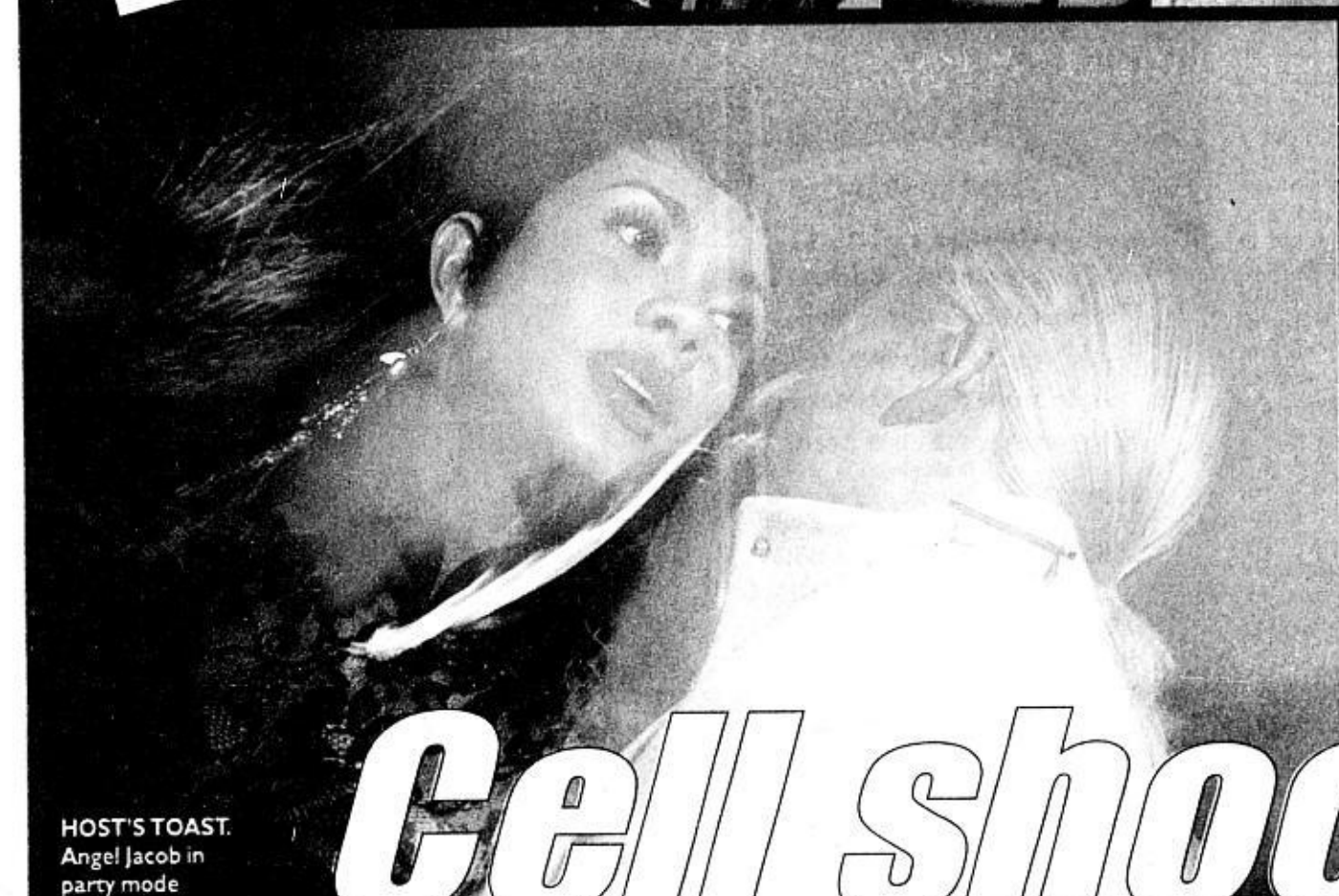
MAGIC to
do, just for
you...

**AND THE
FUTURE MISS
UNIVERSE
IS...** Miriam
Quiambao, on
a Manila break



caught by

andy
MACABE



HOST'S TOAST.
Angel Jacob in
party mode

Cell shocked!



A LIST artiste
Kiko Escora



PB RULES!
Parikshit
Bhasin's suave
demeanor



GREAT FIND.
Jenni Epperson
is now on TV!



LA GRETA VIDA. Gretchen Barretto—cool while hot



MUSIC by DJ
Manolet Dario

By Tim Yap

STYLE in all its forms expresses our passions—who we are and how we live. These days, from your dog's jewel-encrusted collar to your trusty mobile phone, nothing is spared from the style revolution.

WHAT: The launch of Nokia's latest '20s geometric-inspired phones—the 7260, the 7270 and the 7280. Red, black and white were the colors emblazoned on the phones, the halls and the guests. Rhett Eala, Dennis Lustico and Raul Ortiz had a fashion parade, while an art festival transpired outside the Ayala Museum lobby with Vernon Perez, Noli Coronado and Kiko Escora flaunting their painted colors.

WHO: Society and show biz (isn't that one and the same?) collided to welcome the new Nokia baby. Gretchen Barretto with daughter Dominique, Minam Quiambao on a Manila break before heading back to Hong Kong, then Italy to spend Christmas with her hubby. By the bar, Anton San Diego was right beside Joyce Jimenez, who was right beside Maurice Arcache, who was chit-chatting with Nokia country general manager Parikshit Bhasin.

WHAT ELSE: Awards were given to the best-dressed partyphiles. Henri Calayag, high on a Renaissance roll, romped away with the Most Striking Male Award with his Martin Margiela and Cesare Pacciotti ensemble. Beauty queen Rachel Soriano looked every inch regal in her fuchsia Rhett Eala—with arm candy, the very desirable Jacques Dupasquier. Jenni Epperson, now a TV host for Lifestyle Network's "Good Finds" show, was a standout in an Ivarlusi Aseron dress. A raffle of phones was the highlight of the affair, with urbanites all staying behind, all excited for their names to be called out. With high-tech phones such as the Nokia 7260, 7270 and 7280—who wouldn't be?



COCKTAIL STRIKES.
Peter Lim and Celine Lopez



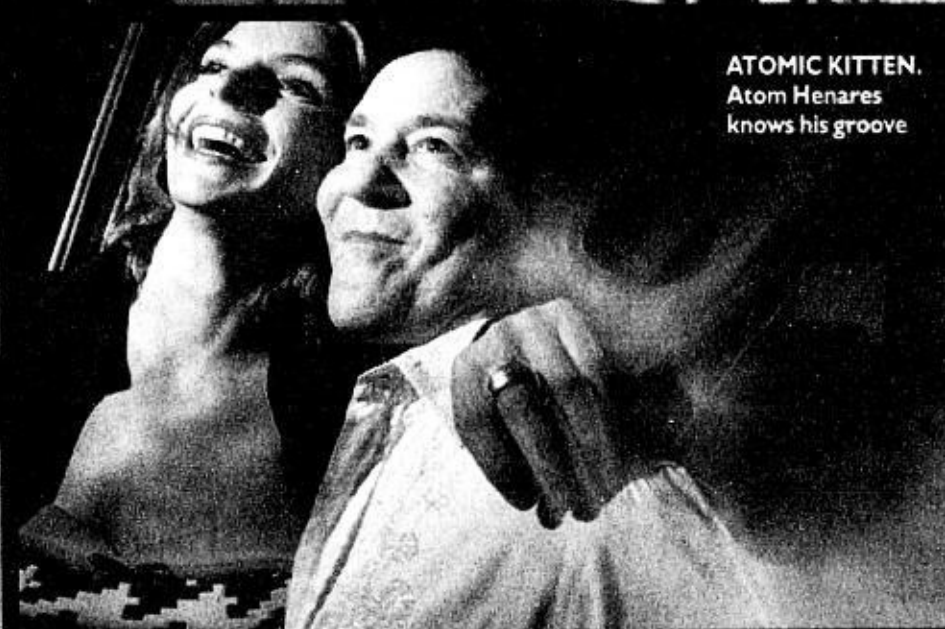
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MAGIC to
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AND THE
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IS... Miriam
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a Manila break



Cell shocked!

HOST'S TOAST.
Angel Jacob in
party mode



A LIST artiste
Kiko Escora



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Parikshit
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SMOKIN'
Robinson!

MUSIC by DJ
Manolet Dario

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With high-tech phones such as the Nokia 7260, 7270 and 7280—who wouldn't be?

LA GRETA VIDA. Gretchen Barretto—cool while hot



SHAKE your groove thang, yeah yeah

bargrooves
primavera

Raise your hands up in the air

From page J1

quite specific in terms of the soundtrack."

Globe Platinum and Superfly, Manila's hot new promoters, will bring Sowton and Bargrooves to Manila on Dec. 11 at the RCBC Tower's 40th Floor, featuring a sound inspired by the reemergence of the late-night member's bar at a new sky-high party venue to be dressed up with equal focus on the social and all-out dance aspects of a perfect house music event.

bargrooves
indian summer

The guys at Superfly say, "It's about being special, being social, being seen and being in the scene. Bargrooves music has been recognized as the perfect complement for those cocktail-fueled nights—from designer bars to private living rooms all over the world. Bar culture has spread across the world's dance scene like a velvet revolution—replacing the bombastic with the bijou, the snaking queues of clubs giving way to selective slipstream entry for members only. Bars today are free to go far beyond the mostly standard club playlists. Although they may never replace that feeling of being lost in a dark dance floor at 3 a.m., they do reach out to a new breed of music lover who no longer seeks that feeling—but who likes to be with friends, to socialize, and chat rubbish while dancing and grooving to a soundtrack of fresh, funky and sophisticated house sounds—and it's that particular mood and music that Bargrooves aims to recreate."

Tickets available at O music stores. Free entrance for Globe Platinum Cardholders. For VIP table reservation and more information please e-mail superflymanila@yahoo.com



Super! wants YOU!

Super! is looking for creative capers searching for an outlet. It doesn't matter if you have a previous mental record, if you eat cereal for breakfast, lunch and dinner, or if you have a penchant for the Sex Bomb Dancers.

(We've got our own quirks, so no judgment.)

Stop writing on your wall, quit painting with nail polish, don't waste your ramblings on friends who don't listen.

Prepare your portfolios, summon your creativity, gather enough courage and wow us on Dec. 11, when you show up at the Philippine Daily Inquirer for the screening of the new members of the Super! team.

We'll be waiting for you at 2 p.m.

Please come in costume. (And here's a tip: practice a monologue on why you think you're Super!)

Para sa uhaw. Para makarami.

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Coca-Cola
1.5 Litres

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Fireworks at Eastwood City

Eastwood City-wide affair

Dec. 10, 17, 24

—Friday at 10:00 p.m.

Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25

—Saturday at 10:00 p.m.

Dec. 31—Friday, 12:00 mn

The boom-boom will surely zoom away your gloom at Eastwood City's fireworks display. Skies will be brighter and nights will be warmer this December as the premiere entertainment hub in

Quezon City brings you a magnificent show of fireworks every weekend. Dining becomes more exciting, dancing becomes more enticing, and the Christmas season more charming, as you cuddle your loved one or dine with your family at Eastwood City's al fresco areas, marveling at the beautiful night made more fascinating by a grandiose play of lights and fireworks spectacle.

So, commit your December weekends to Eastwood City. It's a sin to miss this show.

Musical at Eastwood City

City Walk 2, Eastwood City

Libis, Quezon City

Dec. 10, 17—Fridays, 7 p.m.

What if Santa calls it quits? What will happen to Christmas? To know the answer, be sure to be at Eastwood City this December and catch the must-see musical "December Mints of Mistletoe."

This theater production produced

and performed by the Koine Theater Group will surely tickle each one with its funny dialogues and heart-warming story. Parents, bring your kids to this show. This Christmas, give them the gift of cheer and learning.

Eastwood City: The Star of the Season

Paskonsiyerto every Saturday at Eastwood Central Plaza

All concerts, to be

held all Saturdays of December, are free

Dec. 4, 8 p.m.

Paskuhang Pilipino

Relive the country's Christmas pastoral traditions in a theater-style performance with Nelyn Cabahug, Ayen Munji, Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group, and the Philippine Symphonic Band.

Dec. 11, 8 p.m.

Paskopella

Sweet and simple. So real, so musical. Help yourself to a feast of yuletide carols from the maestros of a capella. Catch The Company and TUX render their best at the Central Plaza of Eastwood City. An early Christmas treat of Eastwood City, bringing together the best voices of the country.

Dec. 18, 8 p.m.

Pop Pasko

Catch Ogie Alcasid, Luke Mejares, Kyla, and Regine Velasquez sing popular holiday tunes to celebrate the upbeat and joyous spirit of Christmas. So block off your schedules. Prepare yourself for a sparkling and music-filled evening. Something this good only happens on Christmas.

Dec. 25, 8 p.m.

Paskoral

Hear international winners of choral competitions sing sacred and secular Christmas choral compositions from all over the world on Christmas Day. To be rendered by the UP Concert Chorus, Montserrat Singers, Bukas Palad the Singing Ambassadors, and Joan Cano.

Dec. 31, 8 p.m.

Pagsalubong 2005

Welcome the New Year at Eastwood City! Meet 2005 with a new rhythm and Latin Beat performed by the famous musical group La Carlota. Groove to the music and chase away the bad vibes dancing, jumping, shouting with the hottest and loudest names in the music circuit. Scream with your friends as you join the countdown to usher in the New Year. And right at 12 midnight, marvel at the wonderful profusion of lights at Eastwood City's fireworks display.

A Very Sunglo Christmas!

Hurry! Get the limited edition sunglo gift boxes. It's the fun and festive way to spread some Christmas cheer!

Sun Glo
AQUALITY PRODUCT OF:
SUN GLO CORPORATION

style . urban living .

pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Superfriends

By David Milan



What's up, I'm Georgina Wilson
Occupation: Economics (honors) student/Big sister
Dream job: To work in a financial company
Who's up? People I love
What is up in the air? The birds and the bees
The air up there is: Cloudy and mysterious
Up in the air, I would love to: Dance
E-mail me at g_georgina@hotmail.com



What's up, I'm Marjay Ramirez
Occupation: Singapore-based model/student
Dream job: To model for big brands abroad
Who's up? Jesus Christ
What is up in the air? My thoughts
The air up there is: Perfect when there is no pollution
Up in the air, I would love to: Fly like a bird
E-mail me at Marjay@email.com



What's up, I'm Maricar Reyes
Occupation: Medicine Student
Dream job: Doctor/ "maraming sidelines"
Who's up? My Dad
What is up in the air? LOVE
The air up there is: Smogged but if you go beyond, it's clear
Up in the air, I would love to: Dream/reminisce/watch over my loved ones
E-mail me at Marshmallow67@yahoo.com



What's up, I'm Vicky Herrera
Occupation: student/writer
Dream job: To open my own retail store
Who's up? My family
What is up in the air? Energy
The air up there is: Simply wonderful
Up in the air, I would love to: Dream
E-mail me at naughty_gemini007@yahoo.com



What's up, I'm Vince Reyes
Occupation: student
Dream job: To be a psychiatrist
Who's up? Maricar Reyes
What is up in the air? Change
The air up there is: Somewhere I like to be
Up in the air, I would love to: See the people down
E-mail me at Tasvinceian_devil@yahoo.com

Royal Family Treats

at Araneta Center

BELEN LIGHTING CEREMONY and MARIAN PROCESSION

Watch the lighting of the Araneta Center Christmas Belen and the twenty elegant carrozas of the Grand Diocesan Marian procession, near the Giant Christmas Tree at the Araneta Coliseum.

More events, more festivities and more Christmas spirit await at the Araneta Center, where you, "The Customer is King".

ARANETA CENTER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

JOIN OUR BELEN LIGHTING CEREMONY
December 5, 2004

FREE 2005 HENG SHUI PLANNER
December 8 to 31, 2004

HAVE A ROYAL FAMILY PORTRAIT
December 16 to 31, 2004
All Mall / Farmers Plaza / Araneta

ROYAL STREET THEATER
Meet Princesses & Prince and enjoy a royal feast giving candy to children & posing for pictures
Dec 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

EXTENDED MALL HOURS
December 10, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

DISNEY ON ICE: MARCH OF THE TWINKLES
December 16, All Mall / Farmers Plaza / Araneta

DISNEY ON ICE: PRINCESS CLASSICS
December 25, 2004 to January 3, 2005

Country club-like Serendra amenities at

AT SERENDRA, Ayala Land Inc (ALI) and Community Innovations Inc's (CII) latest and most innovative low density residential condominium development in Bonifacio Global City, you don't have to buy country club shares to enjoy country club amenities. "At Serendra, the amenities are one of the main highlights of the development," Abelardo M. Tolentino, Jr., president and CEO of RMJM, architect of Serendra District 2, observed. "It is where people can do their physical and social activities."

"There are other developments that have similar amenities, but the highlight here is in the design of the amenities," Leandro Y. Locsin, Jr., of Leandro V. Locsin Partners, interior designer for amenity and common areas of Serendra District 1, remarked. Unlike other condominium residences, Serendra houses several amenity areas. Some are found in the main building on the rear of the Promenade facing the garden, while others are in the clubhouse.

In the main building, you have the exercise room overlooking the gardens, a flexible space for yoga and other such activities, and additional function rooms. Here, fitness buffs and busy executives can enjoy the convenience of doing their daily exercise

without having to go far away from home. On the ground level is the lounge area where neighbors can meet, chat over coffee drinks, and exchange the latest news tidbits. A large function room is also available for parents or teenagers to organize parties, meet guests or hold meetings. There is also a terrace that looks out into the garden area so parents or guardians can conveniently watch over their kids in the playground.

There is a main clubhouse within the garden facing the exercise and the function rooms. This clubhouse is a unique structure because, from the outside, it appears to be a one-storey building. Tired moms will welcome the spa where they can relax and rejuvenate themselves, as this offers a complete range of services, including a massage area. There are still two fully-air conditioned levels underground. Residents can go down to the next level, the mezzanine level, where they'll find a game room, for billiards and darts. It's the perfect place for a good family bonding. The lowest level is where you will find the basketball court and two badminton courts which, if needed, can also be converted into a larger reception area. Residents can

invite their friends over for a game of badminton on weekends or after work. And teenagers do not have to go far from home to have their recreation and exercise. Since these levels are underground, they are expected to stay relatively cool, with adequate mechanical ventilation.

"One of the major reasons why these amenities were placed underground was because we did not want the clubhouse to obstruct the views to the garden," Locsin explained. "The clubhouse is basically just one story above ground. The design is reminiscent of a lantern on top of the clubhouse, as these mirror the lantern units in the residential areas. With illumination, it looks very elegant in the evening."

"What is referred to as the clubhouse is actually an amenities center," Locsin observed. "The function rooms that you normally associate with a clubhouse such as lounges or social halls are actually contained within the main building." The clubhouse houses the spa, the locker rooms, the game rooms, the courts, and the areas around the pool. To those who want to have a tan, the deck is conducive to sun bathing. The swimming pool was also designed to be a lap pool to facilitate exercise for

health and fitness. However, there is also a shallow portion for children. Dads can spend their weekends teaching their kids how to swim.

On another part of the development is another main clubhouse with a veranda -- an open sitting area where food can be served. This clubhouse has a lobby that connects the retail section to the veranda. Here, people can meet or rest after a day of shopping at the Promenade. While walking within the Promenade, people can enjoy the relaxing view and the cool shade from the long strip of full-sized, deeply-rooted hardwood trees, similar to the ones found in the exclusive villages in Makati.

Aside from the main clubhouses, Serendra also has several smaller amenities strategically located in different parts of the development. With a variety of amenities to choose from, the residents' enjoyment and relaxation is given priority since they can take pleasure in using the amenities without the feeling of being crowded. An example is an amenity area which not only houses function rooms and playgrounds but also has a mini soccer field and an elevated kiddie pool that is set amidst gardens. Youngsters can kick ball in the open fields while parents can have picnic

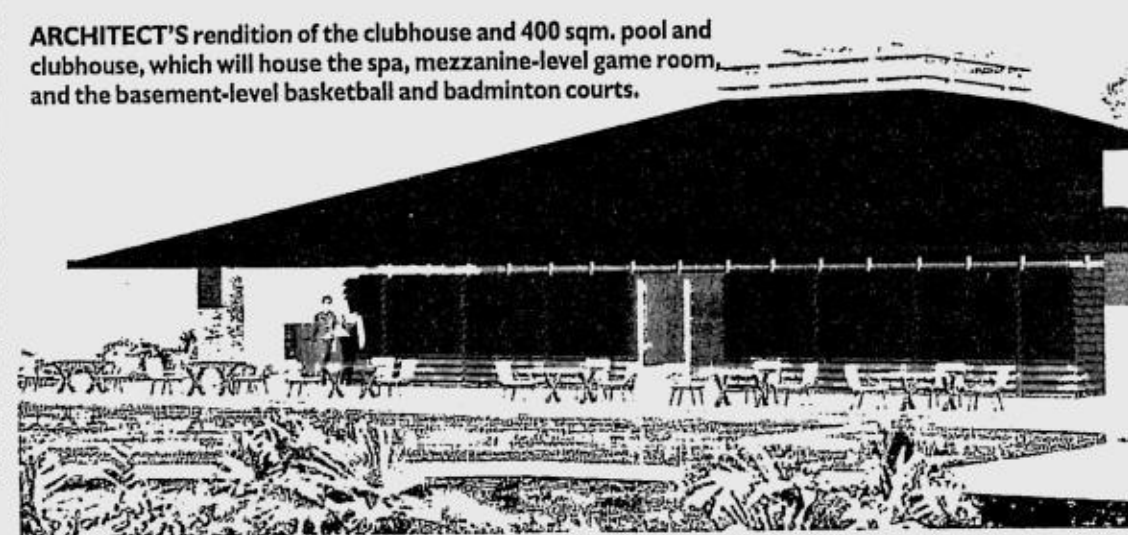


ARCHITECT'S rendition of the lounge area -- a place where people can meet or rest after a day of shopping at the Promenade.



ARCHITECT'S rendition of the clubhouse and 400 sqm. pool and clubhouse, which will house the spa, mezzanine-level game room, and the basement-level basketball and badminton courts.

ARCHITECT'S rendition of the satellite amenities, which are set in the garden to take full advantage of the outdoor views and have a feel of the open areas of the development.



Lots of space to br

WE ALL need space to breathe. After a stressful day at the office, we could hardly wait to get home and release a huge sigh of relief. But we can't do that if even at home, we feel crowded. Most condominiums have this boxed in feeling, precisely because of limited space. But not at Serendra, the latest and most innovative low-density residential condominium development of Ayala Land Inc (ALI) and Community Innovations Inc located at the Bonifacio Global City. At Serendra, you'll find that space is given the importance it deserves.

The first thing you notice about a Serendra unit is its height. "It has a good height," says Cynthia Almario who, together with her sister, Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, designed one of the new three-bedroom model units at Serendra. "It's about twelve inches more at the top than other regular condo units. So you don't feel claustrophobic. We wanted to emphasize this. We want the buyer to be aware of the height."

When they were asked to do the model unit at Serendra, they were asked not to do any interior architectural changes, so the buyer sees the unit exactly the way they would get it. "This is the honest to goodness bare unit," Cynthia remarked. "The reality is when you buy a condo unit, pretty much of the money you have left is for furniture. This way, you can see that this is what you can do with the unit without having to spend more money on additional architectural

work."

As you enter the three bedroom unit, you'll find a floor to ceiling display cabinet cum bar with glass doors that snugly fits in the recess in the foyer. "We picked up from the brown color of the baseboard and the white walls and we were conscious of using these same two colors all throughout," Cynthia explained. The two colors conformed to their style often described as 'modern-minded classic'. "We made the classic lines contemporary by using the two colors, brown and white," Cynthia noted. "It's very bold, very sharp."

The faded old maps in sepia, encased in brown wooden frames, were used as wall hangings. "It's a visual delight," Cynthia observed. The accent chair in the living room was custom made. "The bones are basic," Cynthia explained, "the bones of a wing chair, but we did away with the upholstery and introduced some graphic figures." The sofa has straight lines as well as the side stacking tables. The ceramic stool with brown and white design was sourced from Vietnam but locally bought. The wood blinds were imported but the brown vertical veins were added and made part of the design.

"Since the objective was to use actual bare unit space, we had to use creative ways just to balance some conditions," Cynthia pointed out. They used a pair of screens to give symmetry to the space where there was a post on one side and

none on the other. Since they cannot bring down the ceiling, they used a pendant lighting fixture hanging down from the ceiling. They placed a table lamp on the dining table for added illumination. And even while they used the old mirror trick, they gave it a unique look by framing it, like a picture. "They say that you double your luck when you place a mirror in your dining room," Cynthia added. A bar ledge opens to the kitchen where food can pass through. "You can also have breakfast here," Cynthia suggested. "We added the shutters so when you are entertaining guests, they don't have to see the maid still cooking in the kitchen."

The space for the bedrooms is away from the more public space of the living-dining area. The kids, a girl and a boy, are each given their own bedroom. It's precious, personal space that any young person would appreciate. "The girl is about 12 years old, a little art," Cynthia describes the brief given to them. "So we created a theme for her. She's a Francophile and she dreams of going to Paris, and she loves photography." So the wall is lined with small framed snapshots of Paris scenes. A miniature Eiffel Tower was custom-made to adorn a side table. The desk can also serve as a dresser with a vanity mirror. The doors of the closet were dressed up with crisscrossing ribbons. It also serves as a tack board for photos of her crushes, or postcards, or certificates and awards. While the room follows the brown and

white theme, it still suits its feminine resident.

The boy's room has a sporty look. "He's about 9 or 10 years old, studying in a renowned school and he's into sports," Cynthia explains. A whole panel of the wall is covered with a corkboard that serves as his memory board, for his favorite anime posters, "Danger" and "No Entry" signs. His closets have numbers like the ones you find on lockers in schools. A desk replaced a bed on the first layer of his "double-deck bed" where he could concentrate on his studies. And there's enough space leftover for bean bags or even a sleeping bag and huge throw pillows in case cousins or friends stay overnight.

For the design of the master bedroom, the first thing one would notice is the wall treatment. It looks like wall paper but it's not. It's all hand-painted. "We copied a Florentine wallpaper pattern from a magazine," Cynthia explained, "and we made it look antique, as if it was bought from a flea market. We used the color sage so the husband does not feel that it is a girl's room." The lady of the house has her own dressing area with ample cabinet space for her wardrobe. It affords the luxury of having a room of one's own. An armoire contains the entertainment equipment, TV and sound system, which wife and hubby can enjoy together. A circular lighting fixture hangs over the queen-sized bed. "People are afraid that large furniture will make the space look smaller," Cynthia observed, "but in fact, it's the opposite. Too many small pieces of furniture just

CYNTHIA Almario model

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Special PROJECT

Serendra and My Home: A Colorful showcase of design styles and trends

UNIT owners and would-be buyers into Serendra, the latest residential development of Ayala Land Inc (ALI) and Community Innovations Inc (CII) at the Bonifacio Global City, were given enticing glimpses of bright, new ideas for home interiors during MyHome Magazine's fourth anniversary celebration successfully held at the Serendra sales pavilion last Nov. 24.

The event featured eight nifty, color-themed vignettes by up-and-coming local interior designers whose tastes and lifestyles proved valuable to prospective Serendra buyers. These concepts were showcased in vignettes that aptly complemented the naturally serene surroundings of Serendra.

Says Jeff Isidro, editor-in-chief of MyHome, "Color is an integral part of home. Here, we showcased versatility in every space and highlighted them into 'wonderful' pieces of art that will surely work well with the refreshing atmosphere at Serendra."

Having Serendra as a venue for such a momentous occasion created valued opportunities for MyHome to further its support to Filipino designers, "This is our most exciting project yet, and we wanted a friendly, cozy set-up. This allowed us to mingle with Serendra's captive market while drawing attention to Filipino design ingenuity."

Isidro added, "We agree with Serendra's philosophy of being one with nature and the idea of enhancing it with colors as in our anniversary theme 'Colors of Home' seemed in perfect harmony."

The celebration, organized by MyHome in close coordination with venue host Serendra, also received valued tremendous support from its publisher Mega Magazine Publications Inc (MMPI), Philippine Institute of Interior Design and other sponsors.

Participating interior designers were Mike Pizarro, Jie Pambid, Gino Lim, Joy Ejercito, Chat Fores, Nicky Jardenil, Wilma Lopez and Sophia Ojeda.

Serendra is the only low-density residential community development within the city that features clusters of low to mid-rise condominium buildings. Soon to rise on a 12-hectare development site right at the heart of Bonifacio Global City.

Serendra dedicates about 65 percent of its total area to open spaces, greenery, and landscaping.

HOST Daphne Osenapaz introducing the talented designers from the Philippine Institute of Interior Design who stylishly executed 8 themed vignettes.



JEFF Isidro, editor-in-chief of MyHome, and Angela de-Villa Lacson, president of CII and senior vice president of ALI, at MyHome's 4th anniversary event held at the Serendra Sales Pavilion.



A DESIGNER'S approach to yellow conjures up a pensive yet vibrant mood for a city home. 'Yellow Ware' vignette designed by Wilmer Lopez.



A TASTE of elegance in tan yet cozy enough to be enjoyed by the whole family. 'Dapper Tan' vignette designed by Nicky Jardenil.



LIVING rooms are conducive to all types of décor and beautification ideas. 'Oxford Blue' vignette designed by Joy Ejercito.

Aggressive. Ambitious. Driven. These words have always been synonymous with you. It's the very fire with which you burn.

And the victories that line your career path are brilliant, glowing for all to see. And yet there always seems to be something gnawing away at your blue-chip collar. A sense of lack that stratospheric sales charts fail to cover up.

You don't have a picnic table.

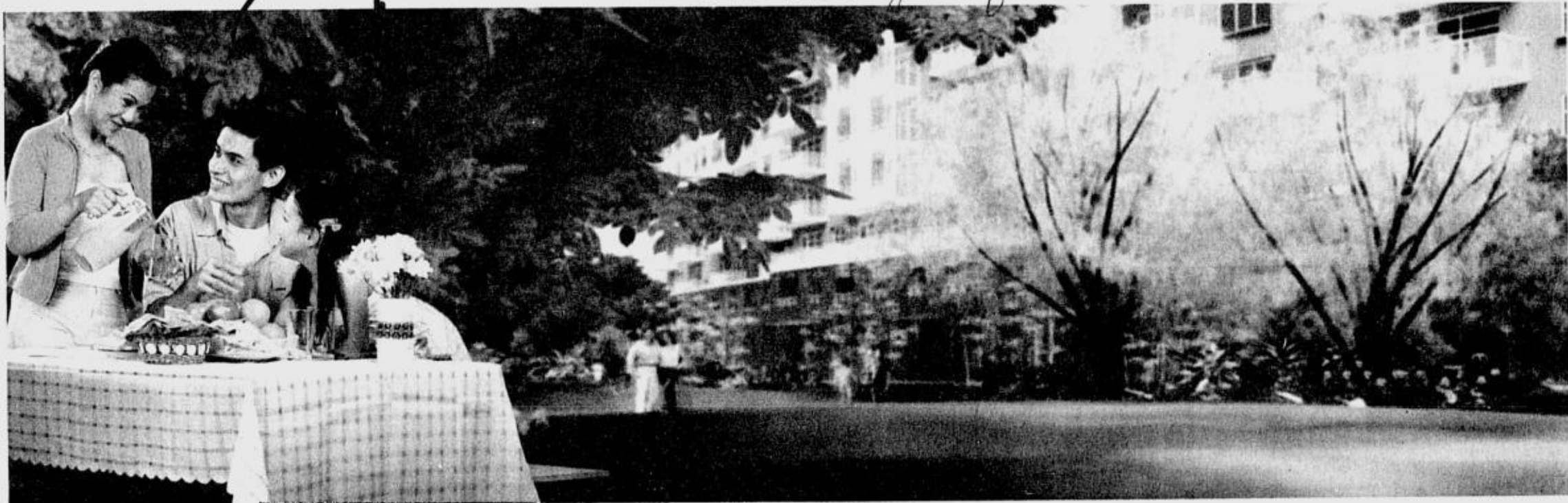
Or rather, you don't have what a picnic table stands for. You can't nuzzle success after all.

And accolades are cold comfort on lonely evenings: What we're talking about here, quite simply, is home.

Not just a roof over your head. Not some halfway house you turn in for the night. But the real thing.



All of a sudden, owning a picnic table makes perfect sense.



A place where plants and children can grow. Where the family you always dreamed of can come into its own. Gracefully.

A place like Serendra.

Jointly developed by Ayala Land, Inc. and Community Innovations, Inc., Serendra is 12 sprawling hectares of lush greens, sparkling pools, cobbled walkways, and the most picturesque residential units. Fusing European masterplanning with Filipino architecture, Serendra is a pocket paradise. A verdant gem a mere 5 minutes away from the hustle and bustle of Makati.

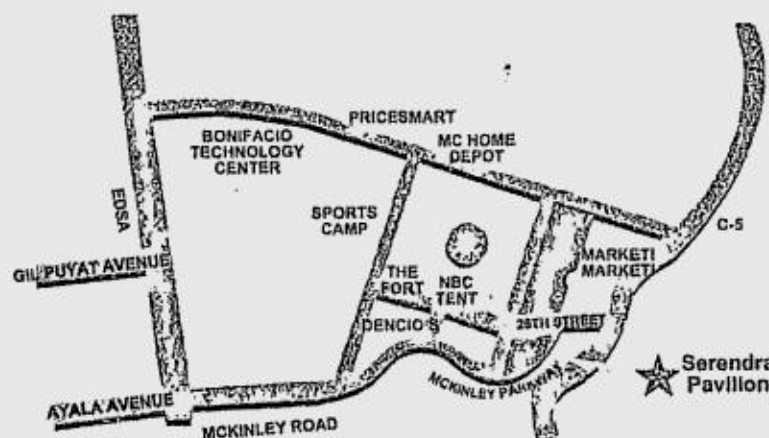
That means being close to work. And more importantly, being close to those whose futures you work for. And let's not forget about the romance of a home-cooked lunch, while we're at it.

If you think that sounds good, imagine what the weekends will be like, here at Serendra.

Sitting back in your deck chair, enjoying a cold drink and a hug from your other half. Your son biking around with the neighborhood kids, your little girl splashing around in the wading pool.

The scent from the grill wafting gently in the air. Life is good.

And you've got the picnic table to prove it.



Serendra
An AYALA Community

Your family's sanctuary in the city.

A joint venture of



AYALA LAND, INC.

COMMUNITY
INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

Now, there's more of Serendra to explore and experience. New Sections with more garden view units are now being offered. For inquiries, call 849-0551, email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.serendra.com. HLURB License to Sell No.: 10412, 10464 and 10482.